

هكذا من الأصل

Portfolio
£42,000 to be won
There is £42,000 to be won in The Times Portfolio competition today, £40,000 in the weekly competition (double the usual amount because no one won last week) and £2,000 in the daily.
Yesterday's prize of £2,000 was won by Mrs Joan Wilson of Littleover, Derby. Portfolio list, page 20. Weekly check list, information service, back page.

Extradited man cleared of murders
The second man to be extradited to Belfast from the Irish Republic for alleged terrorist offences was acquitted of two IRA murders, James Shannon had been accused of killing Sir Norman Stronge, the former Northern Ireland Speaker, and his son James. The first man to be extradited was Dominic McGinley who was also cleared of murder by an Ulster court.

Serps reprieve in benefit changes
Key changes in social benefits to be announced next week will be completed a year later than planned, and the state earnings-related pension scheme will survive in reduced form instead of being abolished.

Militant purge
Senior members of the Shadow Cabinet are seeking the expulsion from the Parliamentary Labour Party of the MPs Mr David Nellist and Mr Terry Fields, who support Militant Tendency.

Briton jailed
Ian Davison, of South Shields, and two Palestinians were jailed for life in Cyprus for the murder of three Israelis in September.

Ban on English clubs eased
English football clubs are to be allowed to play friendly matches against European opposition in a partial lifting of a ban imposed after the Brussels disaster of last May.

Trade boost
Britain has told Peking it will increase the £100 million set aside for low-cost loans to China, to boost British export orders.

Inflation up
Price increases in November pushed the inflation rate up for the first time since May, from 5.4 to 5.5 per cent.

Lending record
Mortgage lending by building societies reached a record £2.66 billion last month, but savings receipts were down £283 million.

Reagan's battle
President Reagan has been lobbying Congress hard to win support from Republicans to revive his moribund tax reform Bill.

Tobacco conflict
The BBC and tobacco companies are accused of repeatedly breaking agreements on tobacco advertising and sport sponsorship through prolonged screening of company names and logos.

Jarrett cleared
Floyd Jarrett, whose mother's death led to the Tottenham riot in October, was cleared of assaulting a policeman and awarded £350 costs against the Metropolitan Police.

Rush for jobs
An estimated 149,000 candidates will sit examinations early in the new year for 376 places in the Italian Ministry of the Interior.

Western hopes
Nato foreign ministers have warned Mr George Shultz that Western public opinion expects more than a good atmosphere and good intentions when Mr Reagan and Mr Gorbachev meet again.

Home News	2-4	Law Report	7
Overseas	5-7	Obituary	19
Arts	10	Parliament	4
Books	11	Religion	10
Bridge	13	Sale Room	10
Business	20-28	Saturday	11-18
Crosswords	14, 34	Science	18
Diary	8	Sport	29-32
Entertainment	9	TV & Radio	32, 33
Leading articles and letters	9	Theatre	16, 17
		Universities	10
		Weather	34

Court defeat for Fowler on lodging cash cuts

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Government yesterday received its second big court defeat in a week as its board and lodging regulations were once again held to be illegal.

The day after the High Court ruled that the Secretary of State for Transport, Mr Nicholas Ridley, acted unlawfully in raising Severn Bridge tolls, the Court of Appeal rejected an appeal by the Secretary of State for Social Services, Mr Norman Fowler, over the legality of his department's restrictions on bed and breakfast payments for the young unemployed.

The ruling affects payments made between April 29 and November 25 this year.

Also yesterday, in the High Court, the London Borough of Camden was given leave to challenge the new regulations that ministers brought in after the old ones were challenged.

The Court of Appeal upheld a ruling in July that Mr Fowler had acted unlawfully in the way he set the time limits forcing many young people aged under 26 to move on every two, four or eight weeks, depending on area.

In addition the court said that the way the new maximum payments were introduced last April was also unlawful, and that Mr Fowler had failed to consult properly his independent advisers, the Social Security Advisory Committee, on the regulations.

Mr Nicholas Warren, solicitor for Mr Simon Cotton, the unemployed youth on whose behalf the case was originally brought, said that unless the case goes to the House of Lords the ruling meant that the Department of Health and Social Security "will have to pay out millions of claimants who have been underpaid in the past".

The ruling affects only those payments made between April 29 and November 25 this year.

Mr Frank Field, Labour MP for Birkenhead, who helped Mr Cotton to bring the original case, said the ruling left the Government's board and lodging policy "in ruins".

The government introduced the restrictions in the face of steeply rising claims for bed and breakfast and to end abuses whereby jobless youngsters went to seaside towns to claim benefit.

The court of Appeal said yesterday that it would refuse an application for leave to appeal to the Lords, but the Government said an application to the Lords for leave to appeal was being considered.

Law Report, page 32



Lord Hartwell yesterday: No intention of editorial outlook changing at the papers

Telegraph loses £16m in 6 months

By Patience Wheatcroft

The Daily Telegraph is to appoint Mr Andrew Knight, the editor of the Economist, as its new chief executive in a radical boardroom restructuring following the sale of a controlling shareholding to Mr Conrad Black the Canadian businessman.

Lord Hartwell, the Telegraph chairman, yesterday revealed the increasing losses which have forced his family to relinquish ownership of the newspaper. In the six months to September, losses have totalled more than £16 million although when the company raised new finance in the spring it was forecasting a profit for the year of around £5 million.

The main problem for the news papers had been soaring redundancy costs and other payments to buy out antiquated work practices and being in new technology. In the half-year these came to £11.5 million, Lord Hartwell said it was an essential element in the package which will bring the newspaper £30 million of new finance.

The Telegraph is to raise £20 million of new equity capital and will borrow a further £10 million from its existing bankers. Mr Black's companies are to guarantee this money and a further £10 million.

Hollinger Inc, a Canadian company controlled by Mr Black, will subscribe £14.4 million for new shares in the Telegraph and there will be a rights issue to raise a further £5.6 million. The terms will be three new shares for every four held and the price just 50p compared with 140p for the shares issued in the spring. Lord Hartwell's family will not be eligible for the issue and in addition will sell Mr Black, however, many shares he needs to take his holding above 50 per cent after the issue.

Yesterday Lord Hartwell, who is remaining as company chairman and editor-in-chief, warned that despite cover price increases on both the Daily and Sunday Telegraph recently, the outlook was not encouraging. He stressed yesterday that he had no intention of the editorial outlook of the newspapers changing and he believed that Mr Black would not wish to become involved in the day-to-day running of the newspapers.

Nonetheless his announcement was accompanied by several boardroom changes. Mr Harbottle Stephen, the 69-year-old managing director, is to retire but remain a consultant on the move to the new printing plant. Mr R. L. Holland, the 66-year-old finance director, is also retiring and he is to be replaced by Mr Anthony Hughes recently appointed as company secretary after being with Rockwell.

Knight profile, page 2
Tide of change, page 23

Westland rejects Heseltine package

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The board of Westland, the Yeovil-based helicopter manufacturing company, moved into head-on conflict with its principal customer yesterday when it rejected an offer of financial assistance which had been put together on the initiative of Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence.

Instead, the board announced that it had reached agreement in principle with an American company, United Technologies, and Fiat, the Italian industrial group, which will take a minority stake in Westland.

Westland has been facing difficulties because of insufficient orders until about 1990 when a new naval helicopter, the EH-101, comes into production.

The company has been talking to United Technologies and its helicopter subsidiary, Sikorski, for weeks, and it is only in the past fortnight that Mr Heseltine has sought to inspire a purely European solution to Westland problems.

That solution was delivered to the Westland offices in London yesterday afternoon, and appears to have been rejected within three hours. A spokesman for the "European" solution said he did not understand how it could be rejected so quickly.

Ministry of Defence officials gave a warning that if the European solution was not accepted it could bring into question Westland's participation in joint European ventures including the EH-101 project, and would lose work and orders that were on offer under the European solution.

Sir John Cuckney, chairman of Westland, said he was satisfied that the arrangement with United Technologies and Fiat was better for Westland and its shareholders.

Under the European solution Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm of West Germany, Aerospiale of France, Agusta of Italy and British Aerospace offered to subscribe to Westland, to produce a new helicopter, and to offer an estimated value of £130 million over five years.

Mr David Horne, managing director of Lloyds Merchant Bank, acting on behalf of the four companies, made clear that the companies would press for adoption of their solution.

Ministry of Defence officials said that one element of the European solution was that the governments of Britain, West Germany, France and Italy had agreed as part of the arrangement that they would harmonize their requirements for a new battlefield helicopter. That would produce savings for Britain of about £25 million, and would make possible the ordering of six additional Sea King helicopters for Westland.

THE TIMES 1785-1985

INSIDE

The forgotten illness

Schizophrenia, Britain's most neglected illness, affects one in a hundred people at some time in their lives. The Times on Monday begins a three-part investigation into this tragic and secret illness that destroys families

MONDAY

Sound and no fury
The perfect pitch of compact discs Page 11

Spiky humour
Milligan discovered in pantomime Page 18



Solving the present problem
A choice of gifts for all the family Page 14

Keeping tabs on the landlord
Avoiding the pitfalls of leasehold Family Money, pages 23-28

Electricians rebuff TUC on ballot aid

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

The electricians' union delivered an overwhelming rebuff to the TUC yesterday with the announcement of a nine to one vote to accept state aid for ballots.

In a postal referendum of 375,000 members of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union (EETPU), 136,800 voted to effect a rule change accepting government money and 15,339 against, a return of 41 per cent.

The million member Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, the second largest TUC affiliate is virtually certain to add to the TUC's discomfiture next week when it reveals the results of its own plebiscite.

Both unions are under the threat of suspension or expulsion from the official labour movement for accepting the money in breach of a TUC policy reaffirmed in September's Congress. But there are moves to shift the TUC's position which would accommodate the two dissident unions.

The EETPU yesterday triggered the TUC's disciplinary procedure by accepting £168,000 for ballots conducted in the two years before January 1985 and registered its intention to accept more, including the £100-120,000 cost of the "ballot about ballots".

In a typically controversial speech yesterday, Mr Eric Hammond, general secretary of the EETPU, said his greatest difficulty in campaigning among his members for a "yes" vote, was to explain the benefits of remaining in the TUC "I had to answer in terms of potential, and the influence we want to exert in terms of the wider movement" he said.

But if the union was solely interested in the pursuit of more members, said Mr Hammond, then there would be an advantage in operating outside the TUC where the rules about inter-union "poaching" would not operate.

The moves to change the TUC's attitude will be reflected in a crucial meeting early next week of the TUC's key employment committee which will be discussing the kind of trade

Continued on back page, col 6

Cubans held for Madrid kidnapping

Madrid (Reuters) - A Cuban vice-consul, two embassy clerks, and a professor were arrested yesterday after trying to kidnap a Cuban refugee, described by exile sources as a defector from the Havana service.

Police said the four men had tried to bundle the exile into their car at gunpoint as he was leaving a bank in central Madrid, but that he had resisted until a patrol car arrived.

A city government statement said the vice-consul, Señor Angel Alberto León Fernández, and the clerk, Señor Abelardo López Hernández, had guns when arrested.

It said the exile was Señor Manuel Antonio Sánchez Pérez, aged 50, a refugee provisionally granted political asylum, and described him as a highly-regarded qualified technician.

Cuban exile sources said, however, that Señor Sánchez Pérez was G2's paymaster for Western Europe, and was not registered with either of the two relief agencies handling Cuban refugees here.

Lloyd's allegations lead to fears over exports

By Richard Evans, Lobby Reporter

The Government is increasingly worried that Britain's valuable invisible exports will be threatened if the international reputation of the Lloyd's insurance market is undermined by growing allegations of scandal.

Invisible exports, including earnings from insurance, banking and the City, bring in at least £400 million a month and play a crucial part in keeping Britain's balance of payments in the black.

In 1984 Britain had a balance of payments surplus of £935 million, but only because earnings from invisibles more than accounted for the £4,101 million deficit in visible trade.

With Mrs Margaret Thatcher already deeply worried about the environment in which Lloyd's is operating, senior Cabinet colleagues are emphasizing that the name of Lloyd's is crucial to invisibles, and must be preserved.

There is also growing concern that Labour MPs are deliberately trying to link the Government with existing anxieties about Lloyd's. This week it was disclosed that two Cabinet ministers and the Chief Whip were members of Lloyd's syndicates which Mr Brian Sedgmore said, in a Commons motion, "may be touched by scandal".

Senior ministers are privately questioning whether parliamentary privilege is being abused by MPs constantly using the floor of the Commons or tabling early day motions to make highly damaging allegations about Lloyd's or the City, knowing that they are protected from legal action.

Mr Sedgmore had informal discussions yesterday with Mr Bill Beckett, Solicitor to the Corporation of Lloyd's, during the course of a visit to Lloyd's yesterday. He was the guest of a Lloyd's member, Mr James Birkin, whose mother is a name on one of the troubled PCW syndicates.

Mr Beckett asked Mr Sedgmore to stop his parliamentary attacks "as far as Lloyd's was concerned".

Follow the Leader

the quality scotch

BELL'S Old Scotch Whisky

ARTHUR BELL & SONS LTD. ESTABLISHED 1825

Aids cases double as disease spreads across Europe

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

The spread of Aids is accelerating rapidly, with reported cases in Europe reaching 1,600, compared with 700 at the beginning of January, according to the World Health Organization.

The number of new cases double every six to 12 months, it says. The world total, for 73 countries, is now close to 20,000, the highest prevalence still being in the US. Over 50 per cent die within a year of diagnosis.

WHO estimates that about 100,000 people in Europe may already be infected and five times as many in the US. The organization commenting on the possibility of an effective vaccine being found, says: "There is no easy or quick solution. This will probably take several years at least. In the meantime, assertive public health measures are urgently required."

"Avoidance of multiple sexual partners is the most effective way of reducing risk. Homosexuals and drug addicts are the persons most exposed to infection, but 'there is no evidence of transmission by casual social contact, by sneezing, coughing or sharing of meals'.

Most of the 33 countries in the WHO European region are now rapidly equipping themselves with the reagents necessary for specific serological tests for screening. The number of collaborating centres for virology of Aids in the region is growing quickly.

The original centre, at the Claude Bernard Hospital, in Paris, is being joined by six others: in Paris (Institute Pasteur), Munich (Max von Pefferkoffer Institute), Stockholm (National Bacteriological Laboratory), London (one at the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control, the other at the Central

Public Health Laboratory) and in the USSR (Ivanovsky Institute of Virology, Moscow) where "a small number" of Aids cases has been recorded. Until mid-year, Belgium (10 cases per million population), Switzerland (9.7), and Denmark (9.4) were the European countries with the highest rate. The comparative figure for Britain was 3.1, The Netherlands 4.6, Sweden 3.3, and France 7. About 70 per cent of cases were in male homosexuals or bisexuals.

In the US recent estimates of prevalence in high-risk groups mention rates of 175-205 per 100,000 single men in Manhattan and San Francisco, and rates of between 200 and 270 among intravenous drug abusers in New York City and New Jersey.

WHO, noting that health services' spending on Aids detection and treatment is likely to rise steeply says: "One of the most important public health questions in Europe today is which measures are appropriate to curb the spread of the virus."

From an overall point of view this is still limited to certain risk groups but further spread to the general community cannot be excluded.

French see in US, page 7

Man extradited from the Irish Republic is cleared of two murders

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The second man to be extradited from the Irish Republic for alleged terrorist offences was acquitted of two Provisional IRA murders yesterday, causing renewed controversy over an issue considered essential for better cross-border security.

James Shannon walked free from Belfast Crown Court after being found not guilty of the "ruthless assassination" almost five years ago of the former Stormont Speaker, Sir Norman Stronge, and his son, James, at

MP repeats charge of payment to IRA

By Richard Dowden

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, Labour MP for Workington, yesterday repeated his allegation that Associated British Foods (ABF) had paid £2 million protection money to the IRA after it had released a kidnapping victim.

The company vigorously denied the charge. Last night Sir David Napley said on behalf of ABF: "No funds of ABF or any associated company have been used in any shape or form, either directly or indirectly, in payment to the IRA. It is a categorical denial."

Speaking earlier in the Commons, Mr Campbell-Savours said: "In the statement this morning, ABF say they

never paid £2 million to secure a kidnapping victim, a very careful and selective use of language. I never suggested they paid £2 million to secure the release of a kidnapping victim but that they paid £2 million protection money paid after the kidnapping victim had been released. The company is playing on words in the statement today."

In fact, the only statement issued by ABF yesterday morning said simply: "There is neither truth in, nor justification for, the assertion that the funds of Associated British Foods or any associated company has (sic) been used in any payment of money to the IRA."

Parliament, page 4

McGlinchey, a one-time leader of the Irish National Liberation Army. He was sent to the North after arguing in the republic's courts that his alleged offence was politically motivated.

Mr McGlinchey's murder conviction was quashed in the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal, but he was re-extradited to the republic and he is now awaiting trial on firearms charges.

Last week, a man wanted for questioning about the murder of five British soldiers was freed by the republic's High Court after a decision in the North to quash 15 warrants for his extradition because they were defective.

Mr Shannon, aged 27, who lives in Co Monaghan, had pleaded not guilty to the murders of Sir Norman, aged 86, and his son, aged 47, in a Provisional IRA attack on their home in Tynan Abbey, Co Armagh.

The prosecution had relied solely on fingerprints found on a car used in the attack.

The owner of the car, however, told the court that he used to drink in Co Monaghan and that he remembered it being moved once by several men because it was causing an obstruction.

Mr Justice Higgins said yesterday: "I am not satisfied that those fingerprints are sufficient to prove the accused's involvement in these crimes. I therefore acquit him."



James Shannon in Belfast after his acquittal yesterday.

Women lose and families to gain in benefit shift

By Nicholas Timmins
Social Services
Correspondent

Reforms of the social security system involving gains and losses in benefit for millions of claimants are to be announced next week with the publication, probably on Monday, of the Government's White Paper on the system.

Key changes planned by the Government, in pensions, housing benefit, support for the eight million people on supplementary benefit and in help for the low-paid will not all be completed until April 1988 rather than the Government's original target of April 1987.

But the White Paper will announce the retention of a cut-down version of the state-savings related pension scheme (Serps), rather than its phased abolition, as originally proposed.

Widow's benefits and benefits for women under Serps are expected to be cut, with the final pension based on the best 30 years' earnings or average lifetime earnings, rather than the best 20 years under the present system.

Moves to encourage personal pensions and to make it easier to set up money-purchase pension schemes across industrial groupings are expected, with the Government hoping that more occupational schemes will contract out of Serps, and that more individuals will opt out of occupational schemes for personal pension arrangements.

Among changes that have survived from the green paper proposals earlier this year are that everyone, even the poorest will be expected to pay at least 20 per cent of their rates.

Despite opposition to the proposal, which runs counter to other plans to simplify housing benefits, ministers still believe the move is important to increase local accountability and discourage people from voting for high spending (and chiefly Labour) local authorities knowing they will be immune from any rate increases.

Planned cuts in housing benefit are expected to be smaller than the £500 million originally suggested, in part because some of that cut was made in last month's uprating, and also because the Government has drawn back from the stiff cuts in rate rebates originally proposed, as the chief victims would have included many pensioner owner-occupiers.

The Society of Civil and Public Services has warned the Government that its new social security proposals could be jeopardized by industrial action if they turn out to be a bad as the union fears (the Press Association reports).

Youth whose arrest sparked riot is cleared of assault

Floyd Jarrett, aged 24, the son of Mrs Cynthia Jarrett, whose death from a heart attack during a police raid sparked off the Tottenham riot in north London in October, was cleared yesterday of assaulting a police officer. Highbury magistrates awarded £350 costs against the police.

The chairman, Mr Ian Ritchie, said the bench was not satisfied with the prosecution case.

Jarrett, unemployed, of Exeter Road, Enfield, north London, admitted driving without insurance, for which he was fined £75, and also admitted driving without L plates and without supervision. He was fined £15 on each of those two counts and was allowed 28 days to pay.

He had been accused of assaulting Police Constable Christopher Casey in Roseberry Avenue, Tottenham, on October 5, the day before the riot.

Mr Charles Miskin, for the prosecution, said that Jarrett was arrested for motoring offences when the police were suspicious about the ownership of his car. Jarrett then ran away and when caught he punched PC Casey.

In evidence, PC Casey said that after the chase he had grabbed hold of Jarrett by the collar. "His left fist struck me on the right side of the face, which caused a slight cut."

In his evidence, Jarrett said two officers had grabbed him. "I broke free and ran across the road but I stopped running because I didn't do anything. They came up behind me and put my hands back." He had not deliberately attempted to hurt PC Casey.

In cross-examination he agreed that he had given a false name and address because he had filled his driving test and the person who usually drove him was on holiday. "I knew I would have to produce documents."

Last month, an inquest jury returned a verdict of accidental death on Mrs Jarrett.

Bravery award

Mr David Garner, aged 24, of Chatham Street, Edge Hill, Liverpool, who rescued two people from a blazing building, has been awarded the 1985 Stanhope Gold Medal as the "bravest man of the year" by the Royal Humane Society.

Burst water main affects 250,000

From Gregory Neale
Leeds

More than a quarter of a million people in Leeds last night were still affected by the water shortage caused by a burst water main on Tuesday.

About 390,000 consumers were ordered to boil their water before drinking it, as hundreds of vehicles bearing water converged on the affected areas.

Many schools were closed, and soldiers used special equipment to provide emergency supplies to households and hospitals. A spokesman for the Yorkshire Water Authority described the effects of the burst as "the most serious we have ever known."

The Ministry of Defence said: "We have been asked by the water authority to lay out hands on everything we could - Army, RAF and Royal Navy."

Workmen using molten lead eventually sealed the burst yesterday, but the water authority said it would take at least a further 12 hours to recharge the system.

"It will be the end of the weekend before things are back to normal in most areas," a spokesman said. "Some areas may take even longer."

Prior bought by GEC, MP alleges

By Julian Haviland
Political Editor

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, Labour MP for Workington, said in the Commons yesterday that Mr James Prior, the former Conservative Cabinet minister, was "purchased" by the General Electric Company, of which he is chairman, to negotiate a GEC defence contract with the Government.

Mr Prior, speaking from his Suffolk home last night, said Mr Campbell-Savours' statements abused parliamentary privilege. If they were repeated outside the Commons he would take legal action.

Mr Campbell-Savours, who was speaking in a debate on industry's contribution to the nation, said that the £300 million contract between GEC and the Government for the Nimrod airborne early warning system, which was awarded to the Government and industry.

"Mr Prior was purchased by Lord Westminster (chief executive of GEC) simply to negotiate on that contract," Mr Campbell-Savours said. "I find it quite outrageous."

"Mr Prior told The Times: 'It is nonsense, and shows the ignorance of a man who makes that sort of comment.'"

Parliament, page 4

Hurd rejects Fordham inquiry call

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, yesterday ruled out an inquiry into the police operation which led to the killing of Det Constable John Fordham during a secret surveillance operation.

A jury acquitted Mr Kenneth Noye, a millionaire property dealer, of murder, after his plea of self-defence was accepted.

Mr Hurd said at a Press conference in Leeds that police had stated there would be a debriefing and any lessons that needed to be learned would be.

Earlier, Mr Alf Dubs, Labour home affairs spokesman, said he had decided against an inquiry and called for one to be held. Assurances were needed.

He said on TV-am: "There are a lot of questions being asked today as to what happened, as to the nature of the police operation, and how it is that a police officer was left so vulnerable."

Two killed

A teenage girl and an elderly woman died after a car ploughed into a queue at a bus stop in Chelmsford, Essex, yesterday. Police were questioning two drivers.

Gloom over teachers' pay talks

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Teachers' unions and local authority employers are to meet on Tuesday for informal talks aimed at reaching a settlement in the 10-month teachers' pay dispute.

There is increasing gloom on both sides about the prospects for peace, particularly as the employers' attitudes appear to be hardening. They say they cannot afford even the 6.9 per cent offer made informally, which would have given teachers a staged 7.5 per cent rise by the end of March.

Crucially, important sections of the Labour-dominated employers do not want to do business with the smaller teachers' unions, who are able to command a majority on the teachers' side on the Burnham committee, on the ground that they are not natural Labour supporters.

They do not see why they should reach a settlement with people such as Mr David Hart, general secretary of the

National Association of Head Teachers and the new secretary of the teachers' panel. His association is not affiliated to the TUC.

Labour leaders on the management side were used to doing business with Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, the biggest union.

The NUT supports Labour overtly and is affiliated to the TUC. But the Labour employers also are disinclined to settle if the Government is standing ready to announce an inquiry into teachers' pay or conditions.

But the government is not expected to make a decision on an independent inquiry until after Christmas to enable the current informal talks to take their course. An ad hoc committee of Cabinet ministers is thought to favour an inquiry out of the various options it considered.

Mr Hart said the only chance

of settling the pay dispute quickly was if the management negotiated with the teacher majority. "The teachers' panel has responded to the urgent cries we have had from dozens of parents to adopt a more flexible attitude," he said.

"Parents will find it very strange if the employers do not reciprocate with an equally flexible stance."

Mr Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, yesterday announced a £13 million increase in the Inner London Education Authority's spending level for next year. The move comes after the IEA's plea for a redetermination of its allocation.

But the amount is still about £100 million below what the authority says it needs. "This is the worst Christmas present Sir Keith could have given London schoolchildren," Mr Steve Bundred, chairman of the IEA's finance sub-committee, said.

MP angry at Nalگو boycott

A Conservative MP is being prevented from taking up housing issues on behalf of his constituents because council staff have refused to handle his work.

Mr Colin Moynihan, MP for Lewisham East, has complained to the Speaker, Mr Bernard Wetherill, after discovering that he has been "blacklisted" by the Nalگو branch in Lewisham housing department in south-east London.

When his secretary telephoned the housing department on Thursday to discover what had happened to letters he had written, a Nalگو shop steward told her that Mr Moynihan had been blacklisted because of his dealings with South Africa.

But Mr Moynihan said yesterday that he had no dealings with South Africa. When he got in touch with Nalگو officials to ask what his offence was supposed to be, he was told that it was because of his positions as vice-chairman of Ridgway Teas and as external consultant to Tate and Lyle.

Five Tate and Lyle subsidiaries were quoted to him as being involved in South Africa. Mr Moynihan said yesterday that the first four had been sold for more than six years.

Mr Gordon Boyle, chief Nalگو officer at the housing department, insisted last night that it was boycotting Mr Moynihan "because of his involvement in companies which trade in South Africa."

Bomb hoax gang escaped with £750,000

By Michael Horsnell

An armed gang who staged an elaborate bomb hoax to facilitate their getaway from a security firm's strongroom escaped with £750,000, the police disclosed yesterday.

The four masked men, brandishing sawn-off shotguns and handguns, got away with Christmas cash deposited by local companies during the raid on the Arma-Guard organization at Harlow, Essex.

The police said that Thursday's raid was nearly for times bigger than was thought at first. The robbers burst into the

home of Mr Joe Symes, aged 61, a security officer, and held him, his wife and daughter hostage for 12 hours before forcing him to drive them to his base. Then they told their security officers there that they had placed a bomb in Mr Symes' car and forced one of them to sit in the driver's seat while they cleared the vault. The bomb was found later to be a hoax.

A reward of £75,000 was offered yesterday for information leading to the arrest and successful conviction of the men.

Employers' chief calls for flexible 'working year'

By Our Labour Reporter

The leader of Britain's engineering companies yesterday called for a "working year" instead of a working week to maximize flexibility and responsiveness to seasonal variations in demand.

Dr James McFarlane, director general of the Engineering Employers' Federation, said that about a quarter of the workforce in his sector might have to be engaged on such basis through part-time jobs or short-term contracts.

Such a system for the engineering industry presently employing about 1.5 million hourly-paid workers, might require a change in the rules of qualification for unemployment benefit, so that it would be possible to draw "part-time dole".

The EEF is due to resume negotiations with the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions in the new year in which the employers' ideas of flexibility will play a prominent part.

Print unions try again for unity over 'Post' deal

Print unions will make another attempt on Monday to form a united front over the demand for a legally-binding no-strike deal for The London Post to be published by News International in March.

The TUC's Printing Industries Committee will meet amid a public clash between the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunications and Plumbing Union, which has stated that it has no "principled objections" to such an agreement, and the National Graphical Association, which has accused the electricians of divisiveness.

Meanwhile at Mirror Group Newspapers, the publisher, Mr Robert Maxwell, has now won agreement from all unions for a cut of 2,000 in the 6,000-strong workforce.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$20; Belgium 18; Canada \$20; France 18; Germany 18; Hong Kong \$20; India 18; Japan 18; New Zealand \$20; Norway 18; Portugal 18; Singapore 18; South Africa 18; Sweden 18; Switzerland 18; Taiwan 18; Thailand 18; USA \$20; West Germany 18; Yugoslavia 18.

Man in the news

Coming out from the shadows

By Robin Young

Mr Andrew Knight, who is to become chief executive of the Daily Telegraph, has been a competent and energetic editor of The Economist for the past 11 years.

But, unlike his predecessor, Sir Alastair Burnet, he is no public personality. He has undertaken little radio or television work and written little outside his own editorial columns. He has positively enjoyed the anonymity that The Economist affords.

Mr Knight has maintained the periodical's increasing circulation which Sir Alastair originally set. Under his editorship sales have trebled and in North America multiplied fivefold. The weekly sells nearly 300,000 copies, more than 100,000 of them in the United States.

Although The Economist is no longer regarded as an important influence on opinion in Britain, it is still to be found on almost every important desk in Washington, where its generally pro-administration line is seen as an important voice of independent support.

Mr Knight has been closely identified with the international-



Mr Knight, who is moving to the Telegraph.

his time in Brussels for The Economist there was scarcely an ambassador or commissioner he did not wine and dine, and the dining table of his London home is regularly surrounded by gatherings of the significant and mighty - philosophers and pianists - neighbouring politicians and tycoons.

The son of a New Zealander, Mr Knight was educated at Ampleforth and Balliol College, Oxford, where he read history, specializing in the Italian Renaissance. Many of his contemporaries and friends became journalists, but Mr Knight launched on a career in finance with merchant bankers Schroder Wagg. His first journalistic job was with Investors Chronicle.

He was recruited by The Economist two years later, becoming the Washington correspondent shortly afterwards. Later he set up the Brussels bureau.

When he became The Economist's editor at the age of 34 he personally reserved and coolly elegant style was seen as a contrast to Mr Burnet's, but his editorship has been firmly in the same slightly right-of-centre tradition.

If you're looking for a new career make sure you choose a company that's growing

The advertisement on page 23 of this newspaper gives just one example of Target's enviable track record.

And we're continuing to build on our reputation as the UK's leading independent financial services group. So much so that we have been referred to as "The life assurance company of the 80s".

We now seek to expand our team of consultants who market our pensions savings and investment plans direct to the public.

And we're not just looking for people with experience of the financial industry. Our Consultants are expected to provide their clients with expert advice and so we give them a thorough training to ensure they are in a position to do so. And we support them with leads generated from our highly successful advertising.

In short, we provide our Consultants with a firm foundation from which their career can grow.

If you'd like to join a successful, growing company telephone David Dunne on 0296-1941 or write to Ben Allen, Target Financial Consultants, No. 1 Bedford Square, London, WC1B 3BA.

TARGET
TARGET FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS

You don't have to come to Greece to find METAXA

Let your friends discover the unique taste of METAXA brandy liqueur, imported from Greece. Since 1888 it has become a world-famous name.

METAXA the Greek classic

Available in: HARRODS, SELFRIDGES, ALL BRANCHES OF ODDBINS, SELECTED BRANCHES OF TESCO, SAFEWAY, ARTHUR COOPER (ROBERTS), PETER DOMINIC and other discerning outlets.

Government prescribes stiff entrepreneurial course for hospitals

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Government yesterday launched a fresh drive to encourage the National Health Service to buy operations from the private sector, to boost its income from pay beds, and to become more entrepreneurial by opening shops and restaurants or taking advertising in NHS hospitals.

Mr Ray Whitney, Parliamentary Secretary for Health, announced a fresh series of "Rayner" scrutinies in which individual health regions look at ways that can be applied nationally of maximizing NHS revenue or making savings.

Yorkshire regional health authority for example, is to run a study of private hospitals' capacities for reducing waiting lists by carrying out operations such as hip transplants and hernias for the NHS.

To date only a handful of health authorities, among them Portsmouth, Bath, Blackpool, and Newcastle, have contracted with private hospitals for operations. About 9,000 operations a year are carried out by the private sector but paid for by the health service.

The Mersey region is to examine ways of boosting revenue for NHS pay beds and auxiliary beds. Health authorities have suffered big losses in private patient income to private hospitals: £150,000 to £400,000 a year in pay bed income has vanished where private sector organizations such as the British United Provident Association or American Medical International have opened up hospitals near by.

A few health authorities, such as one of the Manchester health districts, have hit back by upgrading their private facilities to tempt private patients back from the plush surroundings of private hospitals. Guy's and St Mary's hospitals in London are considering handing their private wings over to private hospital management to try to stem the loss of income.

The North Western Region is to study ways of maximizing revenue and generating extra income for the NHS by straightforward entrepreneurial measures: letting out franchises for florist shops, fast-food caterers, photographers and even perhaps funeral services within hospitals.

That study follows accountants' reports suggesting the service could make millions by such steps. Other ideas include selling health screening services, taking advertising in hospitals or attracting business sponsors for anti-smoking drives.

Central Manchester, which has opened an opticians' shop at its eye hospital, is expecting to make £40,000 a year out of the business, selling spectacles at below high street prices. More than 100 health authorities have bought copies of a study it commissioned on such services.

The Trent Regional Health Authority is also considering an accountants' report estimating that its districts could make £5 million a year from selling services, advertising and boosting pay bed income.

BBC 'continues to allow breaches of tobacco code'



ivan Lendl prepares to serve in the Benson and Hedges televised tennis. The sports code says: "Promotional signs should be placed so as to minimize the possibility of 'freeze frame shots' having the signs in view for prolonged periods, such as cricket scoreboards". Right: Prost during an interview with Selina Scott on the Hogan show.

Head jailed in 'Lolita' sex case

Michael J. Bettsworth, the headmaster of a private school, was jailed for 18 months yesterday for having sexual relations with a schoolgirl, aged 14, in her dormitory.

Bettsworth, aged 42, a former master at Winchester, remained impassive at Bodmin Crown Court as the jury returned a 11-1 majority verdict after retiring for more than four hours.

Mr Justice Stuart-Smith said: "This girl needed your help. What she got was your sexual abuse."

"By your defence you have seen fit to seek to show these girls were liars. The jury's verdict shows that it is you who are a liar."

"I don't need to tell you the gravity of these offences. You are fully aware these offences go towards the top end of gravity as far as this type of offence is concerned."

"The reason for that is that this girl was in your charge and in your trust. You have broken your trust, not only to her parents, to your wife and family, to your colleagues - but above all to her."

After a five-day trial, the nine-man, three-women jury found Bettsworth guilty of two offences of having sexual intercourse with Miss X, when she was aged 14 and one of indecently assaulting her at the school, near Truro, Cornwall.

As earlier directed by the judge, the jury found him not guilty of indecent assault on another girl pupil.

He was jailed for 18 months on each of the three offences, the sentences to run concurrently.

Miss X, described by the prosecution as "no angel" and a "Lolita", had told the court that Bettsworth had sexual relations with her five times in her dormitory and once had oral sex with her in his study.

Prince urges 'greater sense of awareness'

By Charles Kneivitt, Architecture Correspondent

The Prince of Wales called yesterday for people to take a greater interest in their surroundings and for architects and patrons to use natural masonry when he presented the Stone Federation's annual design awards for natural stone at the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

Design is a compulsory part of the curriculum in schools in Italy, which he visited earlier this year, and produced a sense of awareness which could be emulated in this country, he suggested.

Those who expected him to make a controversial speech during his first visit to the architects' headquarters in London since his "monstrous caruncle" speech last year were disappointed. He said: "I shall be excessively polite and hope not to upset anybody."

He reserved any criticisms he may have had to a private lunch which took place afterwards with Mr Larry Rolland, president of the RIBA, Mr Patrick Harrison, secretary, and others.

The Prince told the Stone Federation that respect for the past "is not so bad for business after all, for the fascinating thing is that this very revival of interest in stone has been spurred on by the increase in the demand to restore old buildings, which has led in turn to the revival in craft skills which can be applied to new buildings."

He said: "Due to your efforts and to changes in public taste we now stand on the verge of a British success story. A decade ago the industry was dying, quarries had been closed, no apprentices had been recruited and imported stone was replacing our own."

Today, of the 250 British quarries, some 50 have been opened or reopened in the past five years, providing much needed jobs in rural areas where unemployment is frequently high and young masons are being trained once again.

He drew a comparison between masonry buildings, which give pleasure for hundreds of years, and those "which occasionally torment people for a decade before having to be pulled down". He hoped that architects would be inspired to use natural stone and that their patrons would be prepared to foot the bill: it would add 5 to 10 per cent to the cost of a building.

The winning entry in the new building category was 68 Cornhill, in the City of London, an office development designed by the Rolfe Judd Group France. The Prince said it showed that "traditional craftsmanship is not always totally at odds with modern business and technology".

Robert Hurd and Partners won the award in the restoration and conservation category for the renovation of 1-8 Atholl Crescent, Edinburgh.

The BBC and the tobacco companies are being accused of repeated breaches and circumventions of both the spirit and letter of the tobacco advertising and sports sponsorship agreements, with the BBC admitting it faces a continuous battle with sponsors to keep coverage within the guidelines.

The Health Education Council, however, said yesterday that repeated attempts to persuade the BBC to stop allowing itself to be used to promote cigarettes had failed. "We seem to be banging our heads against a brick wall," a spokesman said.

In recent months complaints have been lodged by the British Medical Association, officials of the North Western Regional Health Authority, and by Action on Smoking and Health. All four complain say the BBC's response has been unsatisfactory or evasive.

Among the complaints are that Alain Prost, the world motor racing champion whose team is sponsored by Marlboro, was interviewed at peak time for 10 minutes on the Terry Wogan show wearing a red sweater and white shirt (the Marlboro colours) with Marlboro patch clearly visible on his sweater.

Advertising cigarettes on television has been banned for 20 years and the advertising code prohibits the linking of cigarettes with success in sport or heroes of the young.

Marlboro Sweater

The BBC said that it felt it was unreasonable to ask Alain Prost to remove his sweater and that the interview was shot in a way that rendered the patch illegible. However, photographs of the interview show the patch clearly visible.

On The Noel Edmonds Late Late Breakfast Show in October the Marlboro sponsored aerobics display team was used in an item where a member of the public was taken up in a stunt plane.

Complainants said that the Marlboro name was highly visible during the item. At first the BBC said that "at no time did the BBC display the name Marlboro on the screen". Later Mr Stuart Young, the BBC's chairman, admitted that "the word or part of the word was visible on occasions". He also claimed that "the Marlboro team is the only two-seater aerobics display plane in this country".

That was described as "nonsense" yesterday by Mr Jim Tucker, managing director of Slingsby Aviation, who saw the item.

Dr John Roberts, regional prevention manager with the North Western Health Authority, last month submitted detailed complaints about television coverage of the Rothmans snooker competition, saying that players were repeatedly photographed between breaks against the Rothmans sign although the code says signs should be placed "to minimize the possibility of 'freeze frame shots' having the signs in view for prolonged periods."

In last month's Benson and Hedges tennis tournament a brand name sign was placed over the scoreboard. Under the sports code advertisements can be covered over by the television authorities and promotional signs should be placed to avoid prolonged coverage such as on cricket scoreboards.

Umpire's Stand

The umpire's stand was painted in Benson and Hedges colours with the brand name, when the code prohibits "display of house brand names of symbols on officials and their equipment", and a Benson and Hedges sign was regularly in camera view when the players served from one end although the code says they should be placed to minimize prolonged viewing. The health warnings were visible on the screen.

In response to Dr Roberts' complaints on the Rothmans and Marlboro events and a Silk Cut cricket match with players in Silk Cut colours, Miss Patricia Hodgson, secretary to the BBC, said the corporation faces a dilemma since sponsorship remains legal and yet the BBC does not want to deprive viewers of widely enjoyed sports.

However, Dr David Player, director-general of the Health Education Council, said yesterday: "We have tried repeatedly to get the BBC to act responsibly and to stop allowing itself to be used by the tobacco industry to promote a dangerous product."

"By insisting that sponsorship is a matter between tobacco companies and the sports themselves and nothing to do with the BBC they are either being naive or dishonest."

"If the BBC will not stop showing events promoting tobacco then the least it can do is ensure that the guidelines on television coverage are not broken."

Law Society to vote on open council meetings

From Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

Solicitors in England and Wales are to be asked in a postal ballot whether council meetings of the Law Society should be open to the public, a special meeting of the society has decided.

The move to open up council meetings has been put forward by a subcommittee of the society as part of a package of reform measures.

But it is strongly opposed by the council, which says the move contains grave dangers, changing the council from a body that makes decisions to one that rubber stamps decisions made elsewhere.

It added "that decisions on many sensitive matters will not be made by the profession's elected representatives in council but, inevitably, by a small caucus in private".

Welsh TV to stay on one channel

By George Hill

Welsh language television programmes will continue to be broadcast in Wales through a single channel, the House Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, has decided after a review of the arrangement which went into operation in 1982. Until then Welsh language programmes had been spread between one BBC and one ITV channel.

Submissions from the public and broadcasters indicated that there was no widespread desire for change, and many argued that the channel had strengthened the Welsh language and brought tangible benefits to Wales, Mr Hurd said in a Commons written reply yesterday.

Submissions had been received from 83 individuals and from 56 organizations in Wales, he said. "Of these, 110 favoured the continuation of the present arrangements and 29 expressed some degree of dissatisfaction with them. All the broadcasting organizations who submitted evidence favoured the present arrangements."

Ministers may appeal over tolls

By Our Parliamentary Staff

The Government may appeal against the High Court ruling that an increase in Severn Bridge toll changes was illegal, the Commons was told yesterday.

Labour MPs were angry because the Secretary of State for Transport, Mr Nicholas Ridley, was absent from the Commons. Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State at the department, told MPs that the Secretary of State was away on important prearranged engagements, then said that the transcript of Thursday's High Court judgement would be received in about ten days. When ministers had studied it an appeal would be considered.

The court had ruled that the increased tolls were null and void because there were procedural improprieties at the inquiry. The inspector had not evaluated and made recommendations on matters germane to the decision.

Avon County Council began charging the old rate for Severn Bridge tolls from midnight last night.

Parliament, page 4

Princess helps controversial drug unit

By Tim Jones

The Princess of Wales has made an undisclosed contribution towards the cost of a drugs centre for a Welsh village but the local people have voted overwhelmingly against the project.

Mrs Sarah Lazenby and Mr Joe South, a former heroin addict, plan to open the centre at Capel Selon near Aberystwyth to help drug addicts and alcoholics to recover.

Local concern is that the proposed centre is only yards from the primary school and it is feared that drug pushers may be attracted to the area.

The Princess is particularly concerned over the drugs problem and when in the United States recently she visited a rehabilitation centre with Mrs Nancy Reagan.

The centre's trustees have been told that a donation will come from the Princess of Wales' Charities Trust but the amount is not to be disclosed.

Mr Derwyn Evans, chairman of the local community council, said: "At a public meeting to discuss the centre the majority of people present felt the project was undesirable in the present location."

Mrs Lazenby said: "I am aware that some people are against the project but it will be run properly and responsibly. We plan to have six residents at a time and they will have been detoxified in hospitals before coming here."

"No one is still taking drugs will be allowed at the centre. There is a big problem in the area and nowhere for these people to be properly treated and given back their self-respect."

Mrs Karen Axford, whose husband is a governor at the 26-pupil school, said: "We understand the patients would be sleeping in caravans. It could possibly attract drug pushers to the area and many old people living alone fear that if some of the former addicts were not responding to treatment they could become violent in order to get money to buy drugs."

Mrs Axford added: "I am sure it is not possible for the Princess to be aware of all the circumstances and I hope her donation will enable the couple to establish another centre in a more suitable location."

Before you talk to anyone about buying a phone, may we offer a few words of wisdom?

Before you make any decisions about buying a phone, for yourself or as a present for someone else, may we suggest you have a look at The Phone Handbook?

It covers more or less everything you could want to know about choosing, changing, renting, buying or installing phones.

(Did you know, for example, that it is now impossible to use a modern phone unless your house is wired up for the new sockets?)

The Phone Handbook explains the legal position.

It discusses the pros and cons of renting

and buying our phones.

It describes all the different phones we can supply you with.

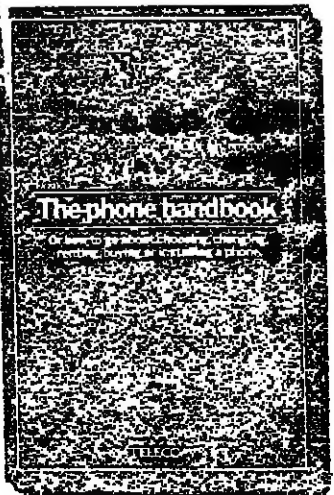
And, perhaps most importantly, it tells you how much it all costs.

All it will cost you for now, however, is the price of a local call.

Simply ring us on 0345-345 345 and we'll get your Phone Handbook to you as soon as possible.

Absolutely free.

The Phone Handbook.



British TELECOM

Britain will offer China more cheap credit to boost export orders

From Donald Macintyre, Peking

Britain is to increase significantly the low-cost credit it has allocated to help finance trade with China in the expectation of receiving new orders for British industry from the People's Republic.

The intention to increase the £100 million set aside for "soft loans" was disclosed yesterday by Lord Young of Grafton, Secretary of State for Employment, during talks with Chinese ministers here.

Ministers have not yet decided the amount of the increase, but it is likely to compare favourably with the soft credit already provided by Britain's European competitors for a share of the potentially vast markets opening up in China's energy, transport, and telecommunications sectors.

The move will be welcomed by industrialists dealing with China, particularly since Britain was among the last of the

industrialized countries to agree to advance such "soft loans". Japan has relied heavily on cheap credit to achieve its huge 25 per cent share of the £8 billion export market.

But ministers believe that the settlement last year with China over the future of Hong Kong, coupled with the prospect of the Queen's visit here next year, has created the climate for a big push for new business just as Peking is embarking on a five-year plan.

Lord Young was chief guest at a banquet in the Great Hall of the People given by the Minister for Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, Mr Zheng Taojin, who said Lord Young's visits at the head of high-level trade missions this year showed that both Governments "attach great importance to developing economic and trade relationships".

Mr Taojin was also said by



Wimbledon champion Boris Becker and world champion fencer Cornelia Hanisch in Baden-Baden after being voted sports stars of the year by West German journalists

Examination time for Italy's 149,000 job hopefuls

From Peter Nichols, Rome

The Italian examination season is now well launched with an estimated 149,000 people expected to sit in the first week of the new year for the meagre 378 places available in the lower grades of the Ministry of the Interior.

This mass onslaught on the state administration follows a similar competitive examination earlier this month at which 17,000 aspirant employees of the railways sought to win the 20 places offered. In March, the Bruzzi region will face 14,500 people trying for the seven places offered in the local taxation offices.

Pressure on places in the Ministry of the Interior was so high that the examinations will take place in four cities: Turin, Genoa, Milan and Verona, which face a huge problem of accommodation during the two days of examination.

Genoa, for instance, has to find room for 7,000 candidates from Rome alone. To make matters still more uncomfortable, candidates were told only days ago their venues on January 3 and 4 for their written tests.

Only now can they start looking for accommodation.

Unemployment is one reason a post in the state's far-flung apparatus is attractive. State employment brings security and, in many cases, a generous opportunity for a second job outside the comparatively brief working hours.

The average is seven hours a day with a reasonably early start, which means that by a late lunch-time a clerk may well be free to turn his hand to something more stimulating and lucrative.

The 149,000 candidates could hardly be attracted by the salary offered which is a little over 1 million lire (£400) a month. But their pension and other benefits are assured with little danger of dismissal.

Security is not everything. Some candidates are less concerned with a state post to back more lucrative employment elsewhere than with simply having a foot inside the administration, even at a very low level. They then hope to gain quick promotion once accepted.

With a high degree of unemployment among graduates, many young people with higher education sit for examinations at any level as a means of entering the service. Only then do they begin to brandish their real credentials and seek to better themselves, according to a recent study of candidates for jobs as custodians in state museums.

In some cases, candidates not only have to get themselves to the examination hall. They also have to show their credentials. An applicant for a post in a state university must produce a copy of all the volumes they have written for every member of the examining panel.

Hoyte win confirmed amid fraud claims

Georgetown (Reuters) - President Hoyte of Guyana, aged 56, was sworn in for a new five-year term after his People's National Congress was officially declared the winner of last Monday's general election.

Guyana's main opposition parties accused the congress of massive frauds in the poll and called for a joint protest rally.

Official results gave the socialist congress 78 per cent of the vote and 42 seats in the 53-member Parliament, against 77 per cent and 41 seats at the 1980 election.

The pro-Soviet People's

Terrorists on TV shock Portugal

From Martha de la Cal, Lisbon

Five hooded men carrying machine guns, pistols and grenades appeared on the Portuguese television news on Thursday night, to the astonishment of viewers and of police, in a televised press conference.

The Attorney-General has ordered an investigation and intends to bring charges against whoever was responsible for permitting it and against the other reporters present.

The five confessed terrorists claimed to be members of Portugal's Forces of April 25 internationally ranked among the 10 most dangerous terrorist groups. It has been responsible for 14 deaths - including landowners, industrialists, guardsmen and bystanders - against 20 bank robberies. Seventy-two suspected members, including the former revolutionary hero Lieutenant-Colonel Otelo Saraiva de Carvalho, have been on trial since September after being rounded up in the

summer of 1984.

Television showed the terrorists sitting on a weapons-covered table backed by red, yellow and black flags with the party symbol, a raised fist holding a rifle. They said their organisation had not been damaged by the arrests and trials. They claimed responsibility for the murder of José Barradas, a terrorist turned police informer, a series of recent bank robberies and the spectacular escape in September of 10 terrorists from Lisbon jail, one of whom was present.

The terrorists claimed they would continue action "so long as capitalists are in power and workers are oppressed". They admitted they had "international connections", but denied they had participated in camps in other countries, as had been reported. They also accused state prosecution witness Manuel Correia of being a "police plant".

Food gift saves 700 strays

From David Watts, Tokyo

Five hundred stray dogs and 200 stray cats have been saved by an extraordinary Christmas present - 37 tons of canned food.

All the animals were due to be put down after their geisha guardian lost her job. There was no longer enough money to meet three million yen (£1,000) a month cost of running Bow-Wow-Meow Mansion outside Tokyo where Miss Michiko Fujita has been looking after stray cats and dogs for the past eight years.

Local authorities in Japan generally take a dim view of animals and if there is any suggestion that they might be a health hazard they are put down. One local authority in the southern island of Kyushu offers money to members of the public bringing in stray animals for destruction and controversial new facilities to put down animals have been built in Chiba prefecture outside Tokyo.

Miss Fujita's dogs and cats were saved by the donation of 17.5 million yen worth of food from a French pet food manufacturer after the firm heard of the pet's plight through a television programme.

Miss Fujita was staggered by the gift. "It's like a dream, my children (the animals) can have such good meals. There's no word to thank them enough." The food is expected to last until March.

Haiti news blackout after protest

From Alan Tomlinson, Gonaives, Haiti

Army reinforcements sent to this impoverished northern city two weeks ago to quell anti-government protests were still maintaining a watchful presence yesterday, though remaining for the most part behind the gandy yellow walls of their barracks.

Troops from a crack tactical battalion were rushed from the capital, Port-au-Prince, on November 28 to strengthen the local garrison which had turned its guns on demonstrators schoolchildren, killing three and wounding at least 14.

The children were calling for an end to the lifetime presidency which M Jean-Claude "Baby-Doc" Duvalier inherited from his father, "Papa-Doc", 14 years ago.

The incident sparked similar protests in at least five other provincial towns, causing the government to close down the main source of independent news, the Rome-Catholic radio station, Radio Soleil, last week. A Protestant station, Radio Lumiere, prudently ceased broadcasting news for days afterwards.

The 40,000 people of Gonaives are among the poorest inhabitants of the western hemisphere's poorest nation, where per capita income in the countryside is a pitiful \$100 a year.

A government spokesman played down the seriousness of the situation describing the incident as the work of "agents provocateurs and subversives".

Euro-MPs vote to give annual Sakharov prize

Strasbourg (Reuters) - The European Parliament voted yesterday to set up a Sakharov "freedom of thought" prize in honour of the exiled Soviet dissident physicist, Dr Andrei Sakharov.

The decision to give an annual study grant on East-West relations, especially on human rights co-operation and freedom of scientific research, was taken by 94 votes to 30.

The Strasbourg decision comes after strong criticism by human rights activists over the award of this year's prize to International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War.

The prize was received on Tuesday by Dr Yevgeni Chazov, the Soviet deputy Health Minister, and his co-president, Dr Bernard Lown, professor of cardiology at the Harvard School of Public Health.

The activists pointed out that Dr Chazov, the second Soviet recipient of the prize, signed a letter denouncing Dr Sakharov.

The US Senate adopted a resolution on Wednesday calling on the Nobel selection committee to rescind the prize, and EEC governments have also expressed surprise at Dr Chazov's share in the award.

Now you can judge a good book by its cover price

We have more than a hundred books produced exclusively for W. H. Smith. Each of the chosen titles offers you high quality reading at an exceedingly low price, as you can see from the peel-off labels.

With such a wide range of titles to choose from you can be sure one will make an excellent gift this Christmas.

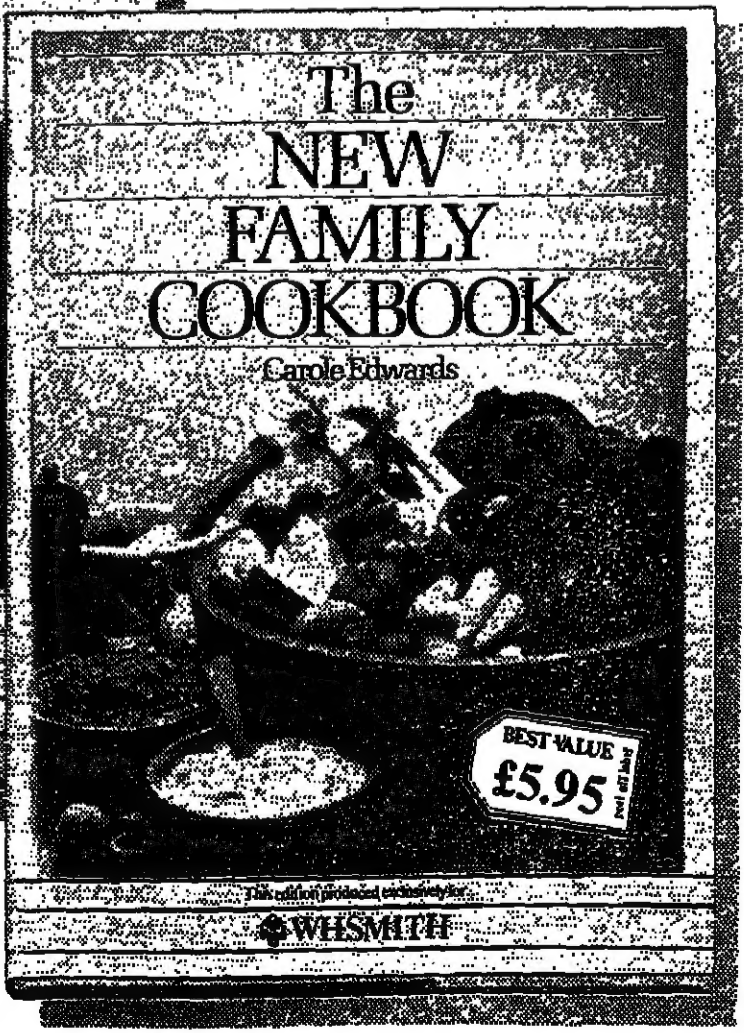
- The Coasts of Britain/John Freeman/WHS.....£4.95
- Creative Amateur Photography/David Kilpatrick/WHS.....£4.95
- Road Atlas of Great Britain - Deluxe/WHS.....£6.50
- Fred Astaire/Roy Pickett/WHS.....£5.95
- History of Movie Comedy/Jane Anderson/WHS.....£5.95
- The Book of Games/Peter Arnold/WHS.....£6.95
- Celebrity Knitting/Katharine Hadley and Jane Proctor/WHS.....£4.95
- Cooking the Microwave Way (New Edition)/Caroline Bell/WHS.....£4.95
- Which Plant?/David Squire/WHS.....£6.95
- Frontiers of Space/Andrew Wilson/WHS.....£5.95
- The Queen Mother/Patrick Montague-Smith/WHS.....£5.95
- 30 Years of Rock/John Tobler/WHS.....£7.50
- History of Golf/Michael Williams/WHS.....£5.95
- History of The World. Pre-history to Renaissance/Esmond Wright (Ed)/WHS.....£10.95
- History of The World. The Last 500 Years/Esmond Wright (Ed)/WHS.....£10.95
- Encyclopedia of Movie Stars/Daniel & Susan Cohen/WHS.....£6.50
- Selected Engine Stories/Rev. W. Awdry/WHS.....£3.95
- Wizards and Warriors Fantasy Games/Tim Wood/WHS.....£2.95
- A Brew of Witches/WHS.....£2.95
- Nursery Rhymes/Eric Kintaid/WHS.....£3.95
- Asterix & Obelix/Goscinny & Uderzo/WHS.....£3.99
- More Tales from Beatrix Potter/WHS.....£3.95



The Children's Bible in 365 Stories/Mary Batchelor/WHS. A beautiful, colourfully illustrated collection of the best-loved and most exciting stories from the old and new testaments. Published for the first time in the UK and exclusive to W.H. Smith it contains a complete story for every day of the year. 416 pages, all for just £5.95.



Landmarks of Western Art/WHS. An exceptional volume offering a survey of western painting, architecture and sculpture from prehistoric times to the 1980s. Illustrated with 1,200 photos, 600 in colour. A comprehensive reference work with 927 pages, for only £9.95.



The New Family Cookbook/Carole Edwards/WHS. A sumptuous collection of recipes designed to suit a modern way of life. Illustrated in full colour with step-by-step photographs. Especially compiled for easy reference, and only £5.95.

WHSMITH FOR CHRISTMAS

Prices correct at time of going to press. Subject to availability.

Nato ministers tell Shultz Europe expects more than good intentions

From Richard Owen and Frederick Bonart, Brussels

Britain declared yesterday at the Nato council meeting attended by Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, that the Star Wars research project should not be allowed to become a stumbling block to superpower agreements before the next Reagan-Gorbachev summit.

Nato foreign ministers told Mr Shultz that Western public opinion expected more than a good atmosphere or good intentions when Mr Reagan and Mr Gorbachev meet again.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, called for a strengthening and clarification of the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty (ABMT) of 1972, which the Russians maintain prohibits Star Wars programmes, and emphasized that the strategic defence initiative (SDI), which he described as a prudent response to Russia's own space research, was widely perceived in Nato as a long term research project which would not yield results for perhaps eight to ten years.

A communiqué issued at the end of the two-day session underlined Nato support for President Reagan on arms control - including American negotiating efforts on space defence - after his summit with the Soviet leader three weeks ago.

Lord Carrington, the Nato Secretary General, also noted that there was continuing discussion about SDI in the alliance, and that "not all countries agree with one another".

There is continuing West European unease over the project, Sir Geoffrey's formula for a "clarification" of the ABMT treaty is seen as a way of allaying anxieties about the possible threat posed by the treaty by SDI, and of ensuring that such fears do not obstruct agreement on other issues, such as intermediate range missiles in Europe, where an interim accord has been proposed.

Sir Geoffrey said the opportunities opened up by the November summit must not be missed, adding: "We need to pursue progress urgently."

Mr Shultz said that, while expectations after the summit should not go out of control, and everyone wanted concrete results from the next summit, there was a need to be realistic. The public did not want an agreement which undermined security.

He said that there was a good backing for the US on SDI. It was the responsibility of the US Government to undertake the research programme which was universally accepted, although "different countries have different views about whether they wish to take part in it".

This was confirmed by the West German Minister of Defence, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who added that the effect of the American programme on the strategy and the cohesion of the alliance would have to be continually and intensively monitored.

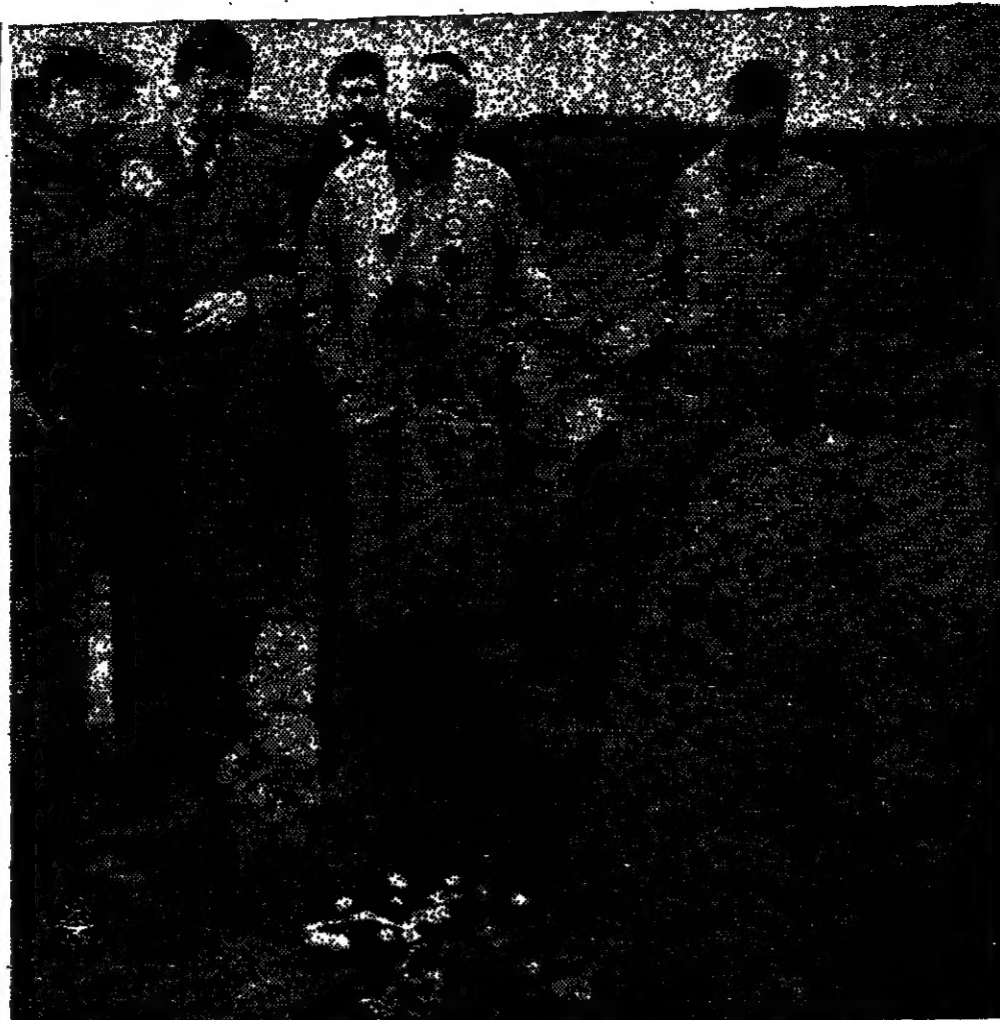
Sir Geoffrey said that it was important that there should be some degree of predictability over defensive developments if the Russians were to be brought to accept radical cuts in offensive systems. A "tender framework of trust" had to be created.

The East-West relationship is "an arranged marriage without the prospect of divorce," Sir Geoffrey said. Officials identified chemical weapons, regional conflicts, human rights and trade as areas in which the super powers could move forward before the next summit.

There was a feeling, according to a senior diplomat, that Mr Gorbachev also wanted to be able to present results to the Soviet population, and to reduce the level of defence spending, running at about 15 to 16 per cent of GNP, so as to put into effect his improvements in the Soviet economy.

Mr Shultz referred to Washington's efforts, "at the urging of our European allies," to bring down the budget deficit, and told the foreign ministers that US budget cuts would have an effect on America's ability to meet its foreign policy objectives.

He later met senior EEC officials at the European Commission for the annual US-European talks on trade and political relations. Commission sources said Mr Shultz has been given a forceful outline of European objections to "US trade protectionism against EEC exports" after tensions over quotas on products ranging from steel to pasta.



Delegates of the World Jewish Congress visiting the former Treblinka concentration camp in Poland to lay wreaths at the graves of Jews murdered by the Nazis.

Swoops for tank guns threaten new split in US-Israeli ties

By Our Foreign Staff

American Customs agents have raided three factories in three north-east states to investigate the possible illegal export to Israel of a new 120mm cannon barrel generally used in tanks.

The raids were carried out on Thursday, but no arrests were made. The investigation is being conducted by the Customs with US Attorney offices in New York, Philadelphia and New Jersey.

The unannounced raids have fed Israeli fears that its special relationship with the US, already under threat from the case of Mr Jonathan Pollard, the US Navy analyst charged with spying for Israel, is in further danger.

There was immediate obvious annoyance in Jerusalem about the raid, and the Israeli Defence Ministry issued a statement asserting that nothing improper had happened. "Purchases by the Defence Ministry delegation in New York are carried out in a legal and official manner, with the knowledge and approval of the US authorities," it said.

"All the deals and dispatches are reported on a regular and permanent basis to the US Government in accordance with the laws and regulations."

Teachily it went on: "Neither the Israeli Government nor the Defence Ministry received any report about existing investigation or suspicion regarding any purchase carried out via the Defence Ministry delegation to the US."

American reports say that by chrome-plating the inside of the barrels, the guns last longer and are more accurate. Israel is immensely proud of its own battle tank, the Merkava, which relies heavily on American components.

The American technology was developed at a US Army Department arsenal in New York, and the factories raided belonged to Napco of Connecticut, Abernathy Lead Construction Co, in Pennsylvania; and GNB Packing Co in New Jersey.

Napco, according to Customs affidavits, obtained plans of the process and equipment, contracted with Abernathy to manufacture one barrel and retained GNB to ship it to Israel.

Meanwhile, a senior US Defence Department official said that the United States reduced its sharing of intelligence information with Israel since Mr Pollard was arrested.

Mr Richard Armitage, assistant Defence Secretary, said that a resumption of close intelligence relations would have to wait until the American team in Israel had finished questioning Israeli officials.

"In some areas there has been a slowdown in intelligence co-operation - not in vital areas," he said.

This lack of co-operation is something the Israeli Government is not used to, and there is concern that Israel is being made to suffer as a result of the arrest.

It is also concerned that it will lose the support it needs in Washington to maintain its direct aid at present levels of over \$3 billion (\$2.1 billion). A US Senate amendment which would have saved Israel \$531 million by cutting interest rates on US military loans has just been withdrawn.

Romanian human rights record may damage special status

From Richard Bessett, Vienna

Romanian diplomats are bracing themselves for the visit of the American Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, to Bucharest which starts tomorrow.

The one day visit is part of a 10-day trip to Eastern Europe, taking in Budapest and Belgrade, but his meeting with the Romanian leader Mr Nicolae Ceausescu is likely to be the most difficult of his tour. There is bound to be some hard bargaining over the question of Romania's favoured nation status in the US.

In the Eastern bloc, only Romania enjoys this status, which brings with it several important concessions in commercial dealings with the West. These privileges are subject to approval by Congress each year, but in recent months there has been mounting pressure by Congressmen to revoke the status because of Romania's poor record on human rights.

The oppressive nature of the Ceausescu regime, where even the importing of bibles is a criminal offence, has persuaded many in Congress to argue that this disqualifies Romania from enjoying such status.

Earlier this year, the US ambassador in Bucharest, Mr David Funderberg, resigned his post in protest at his country's benevolent attitude towards Romania. Mr Funderberg strongly criticized America's policy of treating Romania as being in some way independent of the Kremlin.

Although Mr Ceausescu has in the past adopted a foreign policy not uncritical of the Kremlin's decisions, notably in discussing the question of removing favoured nation status. It is an important lever with which to extract concessions on human rights in the field of emigration. They point out that the threat of non renewal helped to persuade Mr Ceausescu to change the law whereby anyone wishing to emigrate had to repay their entire fees in Western currency.

With the threat gone, the US would have less bargaining power.

Some American diplomats are critics of Mr Funderberg's action. He was a political appointee who is described as having enjoyed "shooting from the hip" but is seen as having talked too much about human rights after he resigned.

Regardless of these changes at the embassy, Mr Shultz is expected to warn the Romanians that if their record on human rights does not improve, Congress will not renew the country's status next spring.

● BELGRADE: President Ceausescu yesterday ended his brief visit to Belgrade which lasted less than 24 hours and which, apart from providing visual confirmation of his physical frailty, offered few clues as to why the visit was arranged in the first place (Dessa Trevisan writes).

Reagan fights to save tax Bill

From Michael Mayton
Washington

The US Congress has voted to remain in session until early next week in order to finish work on several vital money Bills, and President Reagan appeared yesterday to have put enough pressure on Republicans in the House of Representatives to get them back to take up the moribund Tax Reform Bill.

Smarting from the setback to the President's cherished plan, the White House was frantically trying yesterday to find a way of getting the Bill back on the agenda. Administration officials put enormous pressure on Republicans, trying to persuade them to agree to table the Democrat-sponsored Bill before the Christmas break.

Mr Reagan is attempting a spectacular recovery from the damaging political defeat inflicted on him on Wednesday by the Republican majority, Mr James Baker, the Treasury Secretary, spent the day on Capitol Hill trying to work out with the Republican House leadership a procedure to debate and then vote on the legislation. Pulling out all the stops, Mr Reagan lobbied intensively.

The Democrats have made it clear it is up to the President to deliver the Republican votes for a discussion of the Bill.

Meanwhile, in the complicated manoeuvring over the control of government spending, Mr Reagan signed a temporary money Bill to allow the Government to function for another four days. Before midnight on Monday, Congress has to work out long-term spending legislation. This is needed because many of the regular appropriations Bills have not been passed and signed by the President.

House and Senate negotiations were unable to agree on this legislation by the earlier deadline that passed on Thursday, largely because of continuing wrangles over defence and domestic spending.

The embattled President, angry at his recent humiliation by Congress, may well look for a confrontation next week, and veto the long-term spending Bill if it is "budget-busting" and exceeds his spending targets. If this happens there would be a dramatic shutting down of all government offices, except those vital to defence and essential civilian needs.

Leading article, page 11

Setback to TV career of Eiffel

Paris - To the delight of the Opposition, the Constitutional Council has ruled that the French Government's plans to appropriate the top of the Eiffel Tower for use as a television transmitting station are unconstitutional (Diana Geddes writes).

The ruling threatens the planned February launch of France's first private television channel which needs the new transmitting station in order to reach a sufficiently large audience.

Technically, the tower belongs to the City of Paris, whose mayor is M Jacques Chirac, leader of the Gaullist RPR party. In the view of the opposition, the tower is a victim of an attempted hijack.

The council, while not against the use of the Eiffel Tower as such, feels insufficient guarantees have been given to the owners of the tops of buildings and other structures mentioned in the Government's Bill. An amended Bill is now likely to be presented to Parliament.

Legal savagery verdict on boxing

Atlantic City (AP) - A New Jersey investigatory commission has called for boxing to be banned, saying it describes the sport as "legal savagery" and claims it is controlled by organized crime.

"If the same mob presence we have found in boxing existed in professional baseball or football, it would constitute a massive public scandal," Boners too often become "physical or mental derelicts".

French release Bhutto widow

Mrs Rehana Bhutto, aged 25, widow of Shahnawaz Bhutto, son of the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, who was found dead in mysterious circumstances in his Cannes flat five months ago, has been released after 50 days in prison, charged with failing to help a person in danger (Diana Geddes writes).

She maintains her husband committed suicide, but his mother, brother and sister are convinced he was murdered.

Drugs bonfire

Bangkok - More than four tons of narcotics worth \$3.5 million and seized during the past 12 months, were burnt publicly in the suburbs of Bangkok to highlight the campaign against drug trafficking.

Maputo vote

Maputo (AP) - Mozambique is to hold a general election next year, the first since 1977, the Foreign Minister, Mr Joaquim Chissano told Parliament. The 1982 election was put off because of the war with the rebels.

Hover record

Munich (Reuters) - A West German train, the Transrapid 06, has set a world speed record for magnetic hover trains of 220 mph, a spokesman of the manufacturing consortium said. The French TGV holds the world train speed record with 253 mph.

Jobless Swiss

Bern (AP) - Swiss unemployment rose to 0.9 per cent in November from 0.8 per cent the month before. A year previously it stood at 1.2 per cent.

Dentists march

Athens (AP) - Dentists staging a 24-hour walk-out to protest against the Greek Government's health care plans marches through the city centre in the latest of a wave of strikes by white-collar workers.

Match fury

Dublin (Reuters) - At least 50 people, some of them police trying to restore order, were injured when rival fans attacked each other with stones and knives during a football match. The referee fled and the game was abandoned.

Bird threat

Berlin (AP) - Fish stocks in Baltic lakes and streams are coming under increasing threat from the growing number of cormorants spending the winter here. Breeding in Holland and Belgium, where they are protected, an official report said.

Mourners die

Atleparis (AFP) - Four elderly mourners, one 95, died from asphyxiation while keeping a midnight vigil around the coffin of their 97-year-old neighbour at a house here south-east of Paris. They were overjoyed by news from a detective's heater.

Beggar's luck

London (AP) - Each day, Chou Ching-ming, 40, sits outside a temple here on crutches and apparently artificial limbs, pretending he was a polo victim. His daily collection from visitors was about 1,600 Taiwan dollars (\$270) when the police approached him. He ran off, but was caught and finally severed their heads.

Shelling heightens Beirut tension

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Despite the continuation of the latest security plan in west Beirut, there are growing signs that another round of inter-sectarian fighting may soon break out between Shia Muslim and Druze militias, the latter supported by Palestinian guerrillas.

Shia Amal militiamen have been seen increasing their barricades around the Palestinian camps, while a series of disputes between them and the Druze are threatening to break the latest ceasefire.

Reports in the city suggest that further battles could start early next week, and as if to add credence to the rumours, Christians and Muslim militias recommenced their mutual bombardments on the Beirut "Green Line" early yesterday.

There is increased tension in both parts of the city, as the United Nations found out last weekend.

It transpired yesterday that security guards around the US embassy in east Beirut last weekend mistook the approach of a white-painted UN helicopter for a potential suicide bomber, and opened fire.

One bullet smashed through the Plexiglass shield only a few inches from the pilot's seat, but caused no injuries.

Deng changes tactic

Peking tries to win students over

Peking (NYT) - The Communist Party had marshalled 4,000 shivering high school students into Tiananmen Square for a ceremony designed to shore up support for the Government's open-door economic policies.

A bitter wind whipping past Mao Tse-tung's mausoleum dropped temperatures to zero as the students lined up for a rally on Monday that ended a week of pro-government activities. Scripted speeches on the need for youth to back the policies were accompanied by raised fists and a mass oath of fealty to the party's young wing, the Communist Youth League.

The point appeared to escape some of the youngsters who huddled in padded overcoats and hurried away as soon as the 30-minute ceremony ended. Compared with Mao's day, the era of Mr Deng Xiaoping has been relatively short on mass political tableaux, and some of the teenagers appeared to feel that they would have been better off studying for exams.

"What do I think?" asked one, aged 17 as he hurried away. "I think I'm cold."

However, there was no mistaking the purpose of the occasion for Mr Deng and other leaders who have committed China to an entangling relationship with the outside world. For three months, since a thousand Peking University students marched on the square in an angry protest against aspects of the open-door policy, the Government has been striving to co-opt the students and redirect their energies into support of the Deng policies.

In the world of Chinese politics nobody can afford to take student passions lightly. As the People's Daily noted in an editorial on Monday, it was the fanaticism of youthful Red Guards that made the Cultural Revolution possible. Further back, students played a key role in building the party. More than once since the Red Guard rampage in 1966, student movements have been used by

disaffected factions to promote opposition to the party's line.

The seriousness of the unrest at Peking University and at several other universities was underlined when one of the country's leading theoretical figures, Mr Ye Qunzhen, voiced the anxieties of the country's intellectuals last week. He said that the country's leaders would spare no effort to contain the protests because "nobody knows better than they how student movements can spread".

Often in the past the student protests have been met head on, with swift arrests and long terms in labour camps. Mr Deng was no exception with his crackdown in 1982. But this time his approach has been more tactical. Instead of handling the leaders off to jail, he has moved to take over their handwagons and turn it to his own ends. So it was on Monday with the rally in the square - a symbolic occasion that has a direct counter to the original student protest on September.

'Afghan killers dress as Russians'

Moscow (Reuters) - The Soviet Army newspaper yesterday accused US-supported Afghan rebels of killing civilians and taking pictures of themselves in Soviet uniforms to make it seem Soviet soldiers were responsible.

An article in Krasnaya Zvezda, written by a major-general, described an incident in Afghanistan in which it said a rebel unit led by an American instructor ambushed a car carrying three Afghan men and a woman.

The woman's Muslim veil from her head. The newspaper said a captured rebel was saying his duty was to photograph the incident to give the impression that Soviet soldiers had done the killing.

The Soviet media have given increased coverage to the Afghan war this year, focusing on what they depict as the atrocities of Muslim rebels against civilians and the heroism of Soviet soldiers.

Krasnaya Zvezda said that discipline in the rebel bands was maintained by most "crude methods including the death sentence. It said in one instance

a rebel leader killed eight teachers in a mosque after they had refused to obey his command to give up their posts in support of his cause.

In another, rebels killed a peasant for lack of respect for the Muslim veil and raped his wife in front of her children.

The newspaper described a third incident in which it said a group of insurgents, including an American, stopped a bus to check documents of the passengers. The rebels had identified three people as communists and then cut off their ears, gouged their eyes out and finally severed their heads.

FUR SALE • FUR SALE • FUR SALE

SENSATIONAL DESIGNER FURS AT FACTORY PRICES.

This Sunday, for one day only, Cyril Kaye is holding probably the greatest ever fur sale seen in this country. From 9 a.m. onwards in the Crystal Room at the May Fair Hotel you will find their entire collection featuring some truly beautiful designs.

By dealing direct with Cyril Kaye, one of London's foremost furriers, and suppliers to the leading department and retail stores, you will be buying at unbeatable manufacturers prices.

Literally hundreds of fabulous furs in all sizes will be available and every one of them fully guaranteed.

Make this Christmas that little bit special and treat yourself or someone close to you to the sheer luxury of a real fur.

At these prices, you'll never have a better opportunity.

	R.R.P.	DIRECT PRICE
FOX JACKETS	£299	£79
MUSQUASH JACKETS	£695	£149
CANADIAN RACCOON JACKETS	£995	£189
CANADIAN RED FOX JACKETS	£995	£199
CANADIAN COYOTE JACKETS	£1095	£249
MINK JACKETS	£1195	£275
SILVER FOX JACKETS	£1195	£295
FULL LENGTH MINK COATS	£1995	£395
CANADIAN FULLY STRANDED COYOTE COATS	£2495	£795
CANADIAN RACCOON COATS	£2795	£895

One Day Only, Sunday 15th Dec In The Crystal Room at The MAY FAIR HOTEL, Stratton Street, London W1 (Entrance in Berkeley Street)

CYRIL KAYE & COMPANY (The 1924) DAVEN HOUSE, 11-14 GOSWELL RD, LONDON EC1

OPEN ALL DAY 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For further information on the prices and telephone 01-263 2411 / 01-233 2257 / 01-231 0202

Overseas buyers VAT refundable on Export Orders ACCESS/VISA/AMEX/DINERS CARDS & PERSONAL CHEQUES ACCEPTED

Back Chri
bits sale
nions in

Diana grou

in difficult
ating VII

Law Repor
dgings be

Identity test

remedi
exhausted fi

'Black Christmas' boycott hits sales but raises tensions in the townships

From Michael Hornby, Johannesburg

A boycott of white-owned shops by black consumers in the Johannesburg and Pretoria regions has sharply reduced normal Christmas turnover, but is also causing tension and division within the black community.

The chief spokesman for the Soweto Consumer Boycott Committee, Mr Jabu Ngwenya, was reported by colleagues yesterday to have been arrested, but police headquarters in Pretoria was not immediately able to confirm this.

The bullet-ridden bodies of three, and according to some reports, three, black men were found on Thursday morning in Kagiso, a black township near Krugersdorp, north-west of Johannesburg. Local people said they believed the deaths were connected with the boycott.

It had been in force for just over a week in virtually all black townships in the region. It is part of a wider 'black Christmas' protest which township residents are being urged to observe to show their opposition to apartheid.

Boycott committees have

Denmark will ban Pretoria trade

Copenhagen. The Danish Parliament voted yesterday to stop all trade with South Africa next year in protest against apartheid. (Christopher Follett writes).

The legislation calls initially for a total ban on coal from South Africa, to take effect by next summer, followed by an end to all import and export trade as soon as possible thereafter. Coal accounts for 90 per cent of Denmark's South African imports.

The coercive methods used to enforce the boycott, with gangs of youths manning roadblocks and searching township residents on their return home in the evening for evidence of purchases from white shops, has angered many blacks.

Groceries are seized and scattered in the road. Some

people have been forced to eat the things they have bought, such as cooking oil and washing-up powder. Some girls with permed hair - seen as an aping of white fashion - are reported to have been forcibly shaved with broken bottles.

There are shops in the townships, but they are poorly stocked and often more expensive than those in white areas. Many blacks try to evade the boycott by concealing their purchases, carefully stripping off price tags and other incriminating markings, in plastic bags bearing the names of township stores.

Intimidation alone, however, could not sustain the boycott, which is widely supported as an effective way of forcing whites to take note of black grievances. Among main demands are the lifting of the state of emergency and the withdrawal of troops and police from the townships.

Supermarkets in Pretoria and Johannesburg, as well as many smaller businesses, such as inexpensive furniture and clothing stores that depend on black custom, report sales down by as much as half.

French sue over Aids discovery

From Diana Geddes, Paris

In an action that could be worth millions of pounds to the winner, the Pasteur Institute in Paris has finally decided to go to court in the United States to try to prove its claim to be the first to have discovered the Aids virus. The claim is bitterly contested by the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland.

The Pasteur Institute claims that the lymphadenopathy associated virus, which produces the Aids syndrome, was first isolated by a team headed by Professor Luc Montagnier in January 1983. His findings were published in the May 1983 edition of the American journal *Science*, and Professor Robert Gallo, head of a team at the National Cancer Institute, was working on the same subject, read the article, the first of its kind to be published.

The two teams initially agreed to combine their efforts, and between April and September 1983 exchanged a lot of scientific material.

In December 1983, the Pasteur Institute requested a patent from the US patent office concerning the use of a lysate of the Aids virus. A similar request had already been submitted to the British patent office in September.

In April 1984 the US Government and Professor Gallo announced the discovery of the Virus HTLV 3 as the cause of Aids.

Later that month the US Department of Health requested a patent from the US patent office concerning a blood test for the antibody of the HTLV 3 virus, designating Professor Gallo as the inventor. The patent was granted in May 1985.

However, at that time the US patent office had not even begun to examine the request submitted by the Pasteur Institute in December 1983, the institute says.



Bulgarian football cheats get long prison sentences

By Roger Boyes, East European Correspondent

The visit to Wales was one of the more lucrative for Bulgaria's football managers. While the squad played out its under-21 European championship tie in Bangor, the chairman of the Bulgarian Football Federation and two cronies gathered a stack of forged hotel bills, cooked the books and came away with a personal profit of £3,100. Not a bad result for a first-round match.

The latest crackdown on corruption in Bulgarian football has exposed an international web of backhanders and bribes at the very top of the soccer establishment. Referees, trainers and players - above all goalkeepers - have already been purged for rigging matches after match in the Bulgarian domestic league.

But now the chairman of the federation, the head of its international foreign contacts section and a senior official have been jailed after a trial which revealed how substantial under-the-table payments can also be made in international fixtures.

Most Bulgarians know the chairman, Dimitr Nikolev, as an outstanding football analyst and as a public scourge on television and radio, by the corrupt ways of local soccer teams.

But since 1980, the court heard, he had been feathering his own nest. The first bribe came from Sarajevo, a Yugoslav team. "I thought it was a kind of a gift from the Yugoslavs that was supposed to remind me to invite them to Bulgaria again."

The trial has rather obscured who actually handed over the cash. Nikolev received \$600 for Bulgarian participation in the World Cup in Spain. Nikolev and his foreign contacts chief, Docza Nanev, were paid backhanders of \$500 each for sending their team to Argentina. In Athens he became

richer by 3,000 deutsche marks and his two assistants by DM 2,500.

If necessary, he would also accept Bulgarian currency: a Brazilian club manager paid him 2,500 levas (about £2,000) for an invitation to play in Bulgaria.

Forging bills, as in Wales in April 1983, helped the cash flow when bribes were not forthcoming. And, inevitably, provincial football chiefs felt they had to keep in Nikolev's good books.

When the chairman's daughter was married, a local football chief sent him 120 bottles of wine, 110 lb of fresh trout and a suite of furniture. To add to this astonishing dowry, the donor paid a very high price for Nikolev's old and peeling furniture, and charged it to office funds.

In return, Nikolev overlooked the rigged games, the mysteriously lame centre-forwards and the myopic referees in domestic matches.

Sometimes, when the best countries were too poor or too respectable to pay bribes, Nikolev and his accomplices simply confiscated the team's pocket money. This worked very well in Morocco.

According to the prosecutor, the chairman's most pleasant windfalls came in arranging transfers to Western clubs. After a star player was signed by a Dutch club, Nikolev found himself with high-quality hi-fi stereo equipment.

Nikolev, as reported in the Polish and Bulgarian press, was sentenced to 18 years' jail: the foreign contacts chief received the same sentence; and the third official was jailed for seven years.

The trial has received good coverage in Poland, especially in the weekly *Polityka*, perhaps as a warning to financially ambitious football managers at home.

Greens get a minister

Herr Josef "Joschka" Fischer, aged 37, who was sworn in yesterday in Wiesbaden as Environment Minister for the state of Hesse, the first member of the Greens to become a minister in West Germany.

The Greens opened a three-day conference at Offenbach in the Black Forest yesterday. They agreed that today 14 busloads of them should abandon the proceedings and set off to protest outside a nuclear power plant being built more than 300 miles away (Frank Johnson writes from Bonn).

The protest is one of the few issues on which the party could agree.

In Hesse the Greens have formed a coalition with the opposition Social Democrats, to the fury of the party's fundamentalists.

If the Greens win seats at the general election in January 1987, there is an outside chance that they will command the balance of power.

Art pact the first fruit of Geneva

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The first concrete result of the improved relations between the two superpowers after last month's Geneva summit emerged here yesterday in the form of a new agreement on the exchange of art exhibitions between the US and the USSR.

The agreement, a direct result of the talks between President Reagan and Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, was signed at a ceremony by Dr Armand Hammer, the American multi-millionaire chairman of Occidental Petroleum and Mr Yevgeny Zaitsev, the USSR's First Deputy Minister of Culture.

Under the pact, 40 famous impressionist and post-impressionist works from the Hermitage in Leningrad and the Pushkin Museum in Moscow will be displayed in the US in exchange, two US collections will be shown in the Soviet Union.

The improved climate of Soviet-American relations has also resulted in a new exchange agreement between American and Soviet scholars.

Mitterrand plea to make computer words French

Paris (AP) - President Mitterrand of France has called on the Académie Française to honour the 350th anniversary of that venerable defender of the French tongue.

In a speech on Thursday, he told the academy's 40 members: "If the French language does not know how to adapt itself so as to master computer science, it will suffer a crippling blow from which it will never recover, to the benefit of English."

He asked, "Must we translate into English all the commands we give machines?" The Académie Française was founded in January 1635, but

members delayed celebrations until this month to coincide with the 400th birthday of its founder, Cardinal Armand du Plessis de Richelieu.

Cardinal Richelieu approved the first academy, a kind of men's club formed in reaction to female domination of the salons and the "precieuses", intellectual ladies who wrote and spoke in a convoluted style full of circumlocutions, euphemisms and fashionable words.

Since the academicians are the custodians of the language, their main responsibility, for which they earn 2,500 francs (£225) a month, is the preparation of a dictionary.

Pretoria group in silence vow

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

The first decision taken by the Commonwealth group on South Africa, which began meeting this week to adopt a 'vow of silence' about the delicate diplomatic mission which will be preoccupying its members for six months.

Consensus of the humiliating fiasco which surrounded an earlier bid by three European Community foreign ministers to promote black-white dialogue in South Africa, they are determined not to allow themselves to be turned into a political football to be kicked around by the Pretoria Government or opponents of apartheid.

The seven-member group will not even announce in advance when it will go to South Africa - probably towards the end of January - or who it will see there.

Pretoria has said grudgingly that it is prepared to co-operate, as long as the group does not interfere in the country's internal affairs.

Such a conditional acceptance illustrates the political minefield through which the group will have to navigate. South Africa's lack of enthusiasm is shared by its principal opponents, the African National Congress (ANC), which fears

that the group may compromise too far in order to promote dialogue.

One of the first such things members must decide is how to arrange a meeting with Mr Nelson Mandela, the imprisoned ANC leader.

Such a meeting will not be welcome to Pretoria, though it may not actually be forbidden if carried out discreetly. Anti-apartheid campaigners, however, are already advising group members, who yesterday met Mrs Thatcher, that they should not agree to see Mr Mandela unless he is released from prison.

Nigeria in difficulty after rejecting IMF loan

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

Nigeria's decision not to accept a \$2.4 billion (£1.6 billion) loan from the International Monetary Fund has raised new worries about the economy, which has already been suffering from a sharp drop in oil revenues before this week's steep fall in price.

The decision could also prove to be politically destabilizing, even though there was wide

spread support for President Babangida's decision, announced on Thursday evening, to 'half' negotiations with the IMF.

Russian sleeps on after trip to Calais hospital

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

The Russian who spent three weeks apparently unconscious in a London hospital was still "sleeping" peacefully last night in a Calais hospital, under French surveillance.

Mr Vladimir Leontiev, aged 43, had been escorted by British police across the Channel in an ambulance the previous evening, together with the 278,500 francs (£25,000) found on him after a road crash in Britain on

November 16. It was during police questioning about the money that Mr Leontiev fainted.

Mr Leontiev, who was granted political asylum in France in 1978, was suspected of having been involved in a cinema hold-up in Le Havre on November 3.

300,000 francs were stolen. But Le Havre police say the burglar was shorter, fatter and had no trace of a foreign accent.

Law Report December 14 1985 Court of Appeal

Lodgings benefit rules are unlawful

Regina v Secretary of State for Social Services, Ex parte Cotton

Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice May and Lord Justice Glidewell.

[Judgment delivered December 13]

The Secretary of State for Social Services was not empowered by section 2(1A) of the Supplementary Benefits Act 1976 to make regulations enabling himself to fix the maximum amount of supplementary benefit payable to young people in board and lodging accommodation, the maximum period for which the benefit was payable and the geographical limits of the board and lodging areas. Accordingly, paragraphs 6(2) of Schedule 1A and paragraph 2(3) of Schedule 2A to the Supplementary Benefits (Requirements and Resources) Miscellaneous Provisions Regulations (SI 1985 No 613) were ultra vires and a declaration to that effect would be granted.

The Court of Appeal stated dismissing two appeals by the secretary of state from the decision of Mr Justice May (The Times August 3, 1985) who had held that paragraph 6(2) of Schedule 1A, and

paragraph 2(3) of Schedule 2A to the 1976 Regulations were ultra vires. The two applicants, Simon Cotton and William Robert Waite, who were adversely affected by the 1976 Regulations, had each applied for judicial review to challenge, *inter alia*, the legality of those two provisions. Both appeals were heard together in the Court of Appeal because they raised the same point of law.

Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr John Laws for the secretary of state, Mr Richard Drabble for both applicants.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said that the 1976 Regulations, which came into force on April 29, 1985, made two major changes: first, the task of determining the maximum weekly amount was taken away from the adjudication officers and put in the hands of the secretary of state himself. Second, the 1976 Regulations provided that a person between the ages of 16 and 25, unless he fell within an excepted category, might only claim supplementary benefit for a short period which was to be determined for the whole area by the secretary of state.

The effect was that after a lapse of the limited time (four weeks in Mr

Cotton's case) the amount of supplementary benefit paid would be substantially reduced. It was clear that section 2 of the 1976 Act as originally enacted dealt with questions relating to the entitlement of individual claimants to supplementary benefit.

The Social Security Act 1980 added the first version of section 2 (1A), although that subsection contained the phrase "without prejudice to the generality of the preceding provisions of this subsection". It was apparent that the subsection was principally intended to go some way towards the assimilation of the different adjudicatory procedures in the Social Security Act 1973 and 1976 Act.

In his Lordship's view the questions to which the section as so amended applied were still questions arising out of individual claims. The further amendment of section 2(1A) contained in the Health and Social Services Adjudication Act 1983 was achieved by section 2, which specifically referred to the amendments as being "The law relating to social security adjudications". Moreover, the effect of those amendments as a whole including the amendments to the 1975 Act

and to other Acts was to assimilate the adjudicatory procedures in the 1975 and 1976 Acts. The further amendment of section 2(1A) of the 1976 Act was a consequence of that assimilation.

If Parliament had intended to give to the secretary of state the powers he claimed to make regulations which would permit him to make decisions of general effect, it could and would have achieved that, not by the amendment of section 2(1A), but by the addition of a separate provision setting out the intended powers in clear words.

It followed, therefore, in his Lordship's view, that section 2(1A) of the 1976 Act as now amended was concerned with questions arising out of individual claims, and did not give a power to make regulations which would themselves permit the secretary of state, or any other person, to lay down rules, or to make decisions, of general application.

His Lordship would dismiss the appeal. The Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice May agreed. Solicitors: DHSS Solicitor; Bindman & Partners for Mr Nicholas Warren, Birkenhead; Doveton & Fogarty, Southampton.

Identity test in home loss compensation

Regina v Islington London Borough Council, Ex parte Casale

Before Mr Justice Taylor

[Judgment delivered December 12]

In an application for home loss payment under section 29 of the Land Compensation Act 1973, as amended by section 120 of and Schedule 13 to the Housing Act 1974, there might be circumstances where a person could be said to be "permanently displaced" from his dwelling within the meaning of section 29(3A) where the improvements carried out to the dwelling were so radical as to cause him to lose its original identity.

Mr Justice Taylor so held in the Queen's Bench Division in dismissing an application for judicial review of a decision of Islington London Borough Council on November 24, 1984 refusing an application by Mrs Audrey Casale for payment of a home loss compensation payment pursuant to section 29.

Mr Richard Clayton for the applicant; Mr Geoffrey Stephenson for the council.

MR JUSTICE TAYLOR said that the applicant had lived in a ground-floor three-bedroomed flat at the corner of a block of flats. She had chosen, after improvements had been carried out by the council, to remain there rather than be housed elsewhere.

The flat's internal area after improvements had been reduced from 599 to 519 square feet. Instead of three bedrooms there was one. The living-room area having been enlarged. The toilet and bathroom, formerly separate, had been merged into one room.

Part of the space formerly taken up by the flat was now occupied by a communal staircase. A number of fittings put in by the applicant had been removed. The address was a different one, because the entrance now faced on to the adjacent street.

The issue was whether the dwelling from which the applicant had been displaced was the same as that to which she had returned. If it was the same, then although it had been altered or enlarged there could be said to be no permanent displacement.

It would, in some circumstances, be open to find that the improvements were so radical and far-reaching as to cause the original dwelling to lose its identity. Without deciding that question however, it might be helpful to indicate two extreme examples.

At one end of the scale, if a block of flats was razed to the ground, and a new one constructed on the same site, it would be wrong to say that the occupant had not been permanently displaced from the original flat.

At the other, if a three-bedroomed flat without a bathroom had one bedroom converted to a bathroom, the flat remained the same and there would have been no permanent displacement. It was a question of degree in each case whether the change was so root and

branch as to make the dwelling different from the old one. In this case the council's decision was reviewable on principles laid down in *Associated Provincial Picture Houses Ltd v Wednesbury Corporation* (1948) 1 KB 223.

The council's approach could not be faulted in law. Accordingly the application would be dismissed. Solicitors: Miss Suzanne C. H. Beech; Mr C. Tapp.

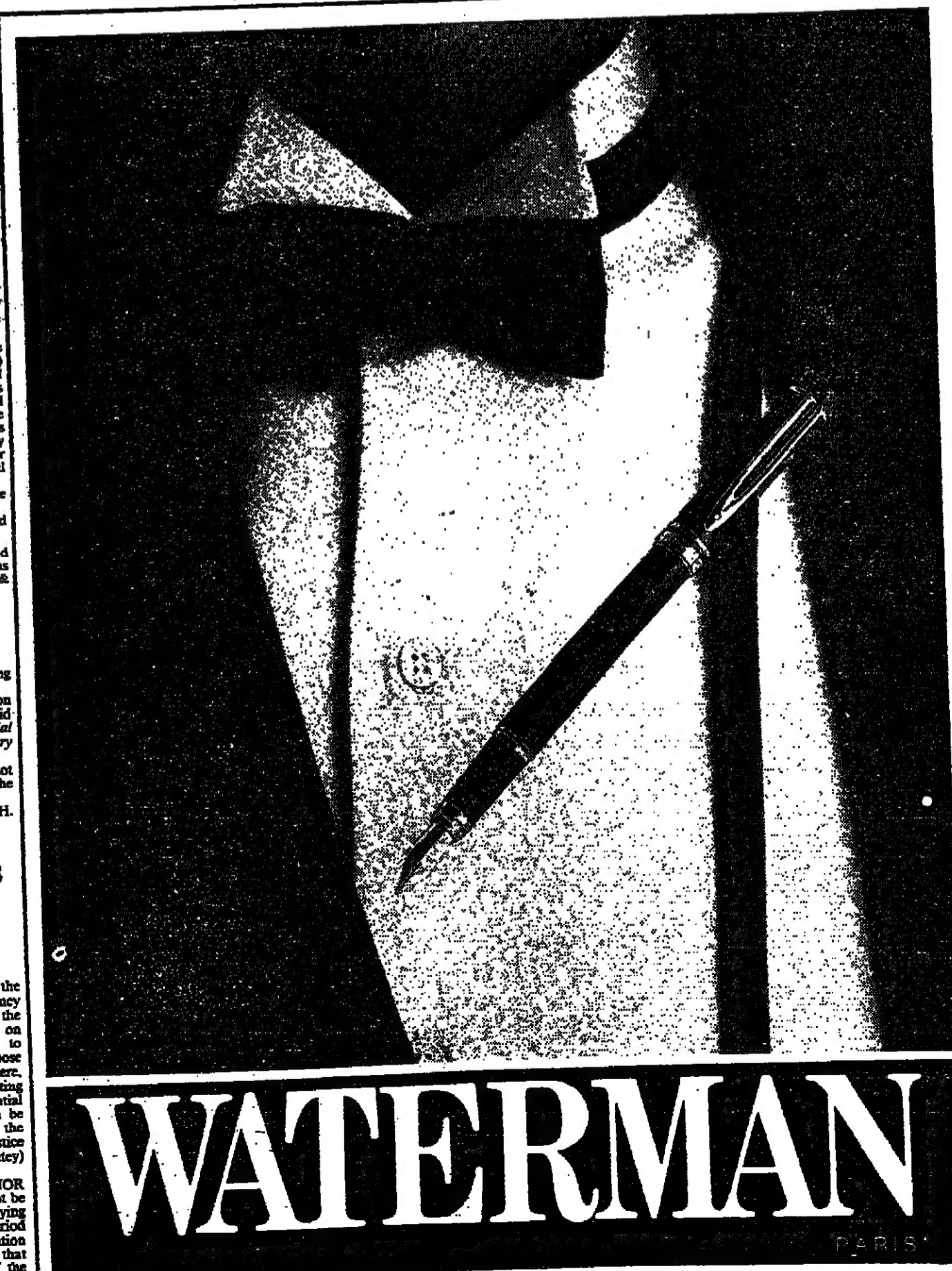
Landlord does not occupy by reletting

Jones v Jenkins

A landlord could not oppose the grant of a new business tenancy under section 30(1)(g) of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954, on the ground that he wished to occupy the holding for the purpose of a business to be carried on there, if that business consisted of reletting parts of the holding as residential flats, since he could not then be said to be occupying them.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice O'Connor and Mr Justice Lacey) said on December 4.

LORD JUSTICE O'CONNOR said that the objection could not be overcome by the landlord occupying the premises during a short period while conversion and redecoration works were carried out, since that would defeat the intention of the legislation.



SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Fight on holy ground

A football team in the North-West Counties League will expire after 94 years and the last rites will be read by their landlord, the Church of England - unless the Archbishop of Canterbury intervenes. The church is to evict the team, Bolton St Thomas, from their ground adjoining St Thomas's Church, where they were founded in 1891 as a church side. Through the years the church has permitted them to use the ground rent-free. They built dressing-rooms, a boardroom and a treatment room. Now, having been told they must leave the ground at the end of the football season, and having failed to persuade the church to sell them the ground, they have gone to the top. Geoffrey Pollitt, chairman of Bolton St Thomas, has written to the Archbishop. "If that doesn't work," Pollitt says, "I am preparing a letter to the Queen as the head of the Church." A church spokesman said: "Churches in urban priority areas must look at all their assets and see if the way they are managing them is right. We have to rationalize."

Gym slips

Eight-year-old Roselyn Enson from the Philippines won a bronze medal at the South-east Asian Games this week - inevitably in women's gymnastics, that sport where the most serious physical handicap is puberty. But she was not the youngest competitor - or the cutest. That title went to Eileen Chai of Singapore, who is only seven and is four feet tall. Miss Chai likes the beam least because "I can fall down and hurt myself", and likes the floor exercise best because it is very hard to fall off the floor. Lee Seng Huat, manager of the Singapore gymnastics team, says Miss Chai has great potential and could do very well if she practises 35 hours a week for the next five years. Somewhere along the line international gymnastics seems to have taken a wrong turning.

Fast talkers

After eight centuries, Oxford University has decided that it is time to start giving lectures on sport. They will be held at the beginning of next term, and speakers include Sir Roger Bannister, Chris Chataway, Ron Pickering, Sebastian Coe, Dan Maskell and Dan Topolski.

Frozen out

A new line in football injuries is always to be commended - one gets awfully tired of groin strains. Tony Gervaise, a midfielder with the Scottish side Queen of the South, managed this when he was stretched out 14 minutes from the end of a recent game, suffering from hypothermia.

Slambo

Boris Becker prepares for his top tennis matches by thinking about Sylvester Stallone, he has confessed. But his real hero is the Pope. "I want to see, I want to touch him," he says. "He seems like something else, not a normal human being." Becker has been unable to take part in West Germany's Davis Cup match against Scandinavia because of his heavy schedule of award collecting.

BARRY FANTONI



'The jockey just passed the Breathalyzer, but his horse failed the dope test'

Roughing it

The 150th anniversary season of Corfu cricket has ended with the ground at The Esplanade still a little short of standards set by Lord's. Lord Orr-Ewing, president of the Anglo-Corfu Cricket Association, discovered on a recent visit that the regressing of the ground had not been a total success. There is only one lawnmower available on the island, and the pitch is still used as a coach park. Incidentally, Lord Orr-Ewing was, when chairman of the Metrifaction Board, run out when playing in Corfu on a pitch 22 metres in length - more than six feet longer than the official 22 yards. Fit punishment.

How to try them

Talking of punishment, a neat idea has been put forward by David Gullick, a reader intrigued by suggestions that Rugby Union follow Rugby League in introducing a sin-bis system, by which naughty players can be sent off for 10 minutes. He thinks a nice, cosy sin-bis is no punishment at all. He suggests that temporarily banished players should stand on their own dead ball line, incommunicado, an object of ridicule, freezing to death - and should their absence permit the opposition to score a try, it would be scored right at their feet. And it wouldn't even look as if Union were stealing an idea from Rugby League.

What is lost on the swings is gained on the roundabouts, the Chancellor this week tried to reassure a House of Commons morbidly ready to believe that falling oil prices had dealt the final blow to the British economy. The gloom was misplaced. When the takings from the whole fun fair are totted up it is pretty plain that lower oil prices should be good for Britain.

This conclusion runs so far counter to our anxious dependence on offshore oil that it is worth working through the connections. To begin with the large, oil-consuming industrial nations: they are unequivocally better off with cheaper oil. So world growth speeds up, while world inflation falls.

Naturally, there can be local upsets, particularly if prices drop sharply. An individual company might lose a valuable contract from a newly-poor member of Opec; another company, specializing in energy conservation, might lose trade. Most countries produce some domestic energy, whose price and profitability will be affected by the falling price of oil. Most international banks are owed some money by big oil-producing nations, such as Mexico, which will find it harder to meet their debts. But overall, world output and incomes will tend to rise.

Britain gains from a bigger world market: and from the effects of cheaper oil on its own economy too. The vast majority of British people and businesses are oil users, not oil producers. Their industrial costs and living expenses should fall, as they do in other countries. But changes affecting the 6 per cent of the British economy that consists of oil production will affect tax, jobs and the exchange rate.

The first notable feature of

Why the oil slide need not be bad for Britain

by Sarah Hogg

Britain's modest oil sector is that it produces a great deal of tax, which is sharply affected by price changes. For next year, the Chancellor had £11.5 billion of revenue from the North Sea built into his last published plans: these have certainly been scaled down, perhaps to about £7.5 billion, which is more than enough to wipe out the £3.5 billion of tax cuts also pencilled into the plans.

However, growth in the rest of the economy is also expected to be faster than those plans implied, pulling in more revenue from elsewhere. Lawson carefully depressed MPs' expectations this week, but he should still have scope within his existing budget targets of tax cuts of up to £2 billion. So the net effect, so far, is to have reduced costs and tax reductions: which fits perfectly with Mrs Thatcher's insistence that lower inflation takes precedence over income tax cuts.

But there are two other important quibbles of the oil sector. While oil production generates a disproportionate amount of tax revenue, it uses disproportionately few people. So, encouragingly, a shift in production from oil to the rest of the

economy tends to boost employment: which is one reason the Government now expects unemployment to fall.

The rogue element is, of course, sterling. The foreign exchange markets still occasionally treat Britain as a one-commodity economy, and knock sterling when oil prices fall. Import prices then rise, which means that Britain's inflation rate does not drop as world energy prices fall. But if this happens, Britain receives other benefits.

As sterling drops, oil - which is priced in dollars - becomes more valuable, both to North Sea producers and to the Treasury. This might suggest we are likely to end up where we started, with the same levels of inflation, oil output and tax revenue. However, there are two reasons why things are not quite that neat. The good news first: the falling pound makes Britain more competitive in world markets, which are themselves expanding. The bad news is that it would take a very big fall in the pound to restore the level of oil tax revenue lost from a sharp fall in the oil price - and that would threaten to push up the inflation rate.

A neat simulation by the economists at stockbrokers Simon & Coates illustrates the pattern. For every 10 per cent by which oil prices fall, we can "afford" a 5 per cent fall in sterling in the sense that the combination would leave the inflation rate unchanged, at least in the first year. It would also mean some fall in oil tax revenues. But it would boost total national output and income by a half of one per cent - a net all-round gain to Britain of nearly £2 billion in today's money.

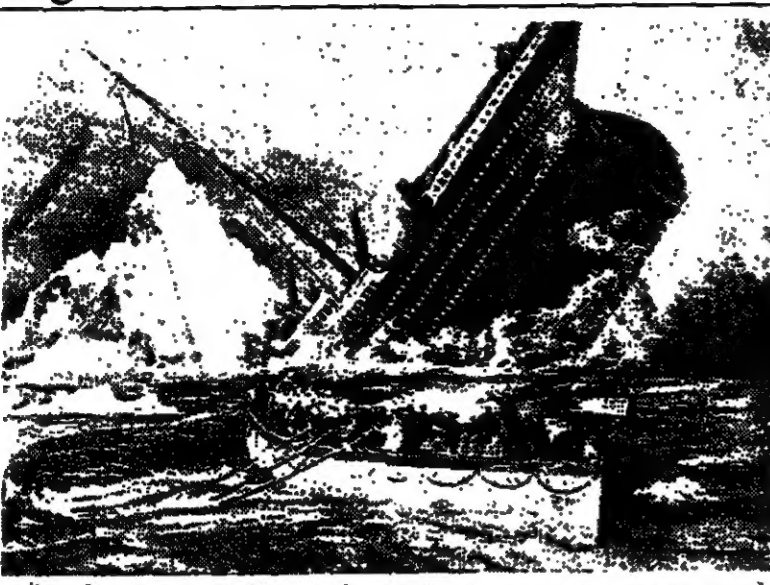
Other forecasters produce different figures, but much the same pattern. Of course, sterling might fall more or less than the exact drop that would leave inflation unchanged. A smaller fall would give less of a boost to output, but also lower inflation; still a net benefit. The clear message is that there is no reason for the Government to interfere unless the pound threatens to fall by more.

A lot of confusion is caused by the economics of envy. Other economies gain more than Britain from a falling oil price: but this does not mean that Britain does not gain at all. To suggest it does is as dotty as to believe another general recession induced by higher oil prices would actually benefit Britain, because output should fall less here than elsewhere. The history of the past 12 years should protect us against such nonsense.

It is only if sterling really starts to slide that the sums may become unattractive. The alarm bells ring: inflation targets are threatened. Then the question is whether interest rates may have to rise so steeply as to wipe out the benefit to industry of a healthier world market.

The author is economics editor of The Times.

A legal tangle breaks the surface: Marcel Berlins reports



An artist's impression of the Titanic going down. Above, salvage operator John Pierce, who thinks he can claim ownership if he brings up the wreck

underwriters but was liable only for £75,000, 7.5 per cent of the total insured.

The Titanic hit the world's most famous iceberg on the night of April 14, 1912, and White Star's subsequent insurance claim was met promptly and in full. What happened then is directly relevant to the wreck's present ownership, but has so far proved impossible to unravel. On paying out the claim, the insurers became owners of the wreck, and if nothing else has happened between 1912 and now, the Commercial Union and the 70 other underwriters will still own it. But it is possible for insurers to abandon their title - for instance, where a wreck could remain a continuing danger to navigation and they do not want to be saddled with any claims for negligence. If the underwriters did in fact abandon their title to the Titanic, it reverted to its original owners.

White Star was merged with Cunard in 1934, but none of the documents dealing with that merger even mention the Titanic. Cunard eventually swallowed White Star altogether, and was in turn bought by Trafalgar House, the group led by Nigel Brookes which also owns Scott Lithgow shipbuilders, the Trollope & Collie construction company and the Ritz Hotel. A spokesman for the group is adamant that "we've never owned it, we don't own it now, and we never will". The law may one day say otherwise.

More likely, however, is that Commercial Union and the other underwriters did not exercise their right of abandonment. Commercial

Union thought at first that they had, but a search of their documents of the time drew blank. They now feel that "we probably just didn't bother. There was no reason to." After all, the Titanic was at the bottom of the sea, and at the time the possibility of it being found, let alone raised, was remote.

If the collection of underwriters were owners in 1912, who are the owners now? In principle, their legal heirs, but many of the signatures on the Lloyd's slip are indecipherable. Others belong to syndicates which have long since ceased operating, and some signatories put their names to the slip on behalf of several unidentified underwriters. It is possible that the 70 signatures represent hundreds of small risk-takers, all of whose heirs and descendants, in theory, have a stake



Two miles down: the liner's anchor chains and winches

in the wreck of the Titanic. Trying to trace all these mini-owners could waste a great deal of time and money.

The problems over the wreck itself are matched by potential difficulties over the ownership of its contents. Some of the passengers were insured and they (or their estates) were paid out at the time. But insurance was not as widespread as it is now, and many passengers were not covered. If anything of value is found it belongs to the legal heirs of the insurance companies or of the individual losers.

Not that there is likely to be much. The claim that the ship's safe holds millions of pounds' worth of diamonds is as discredited as the fable that the band played "Nearer My God to Thee" as the waters lapped over the sinking ship (it played an Episcopalian hymn called "Autumn"). The so-called Titanic Omar, a luxuriously bound and illustrated copy of the Omar Khayyam Rubaiyat, is unlikely to have survived three-quarters of a century of damp, nor a painting by the French artist Blondel, the most valuable work of art on board. Jewelry may have remained intact, but there is little evidence that there was anything especially valuable. Whoever the owners of the Titanic or its contents prove to be, Mr Pierce or any other salvage operator would still be entitled to be paid a share of whatever he recovers. But it is already beginning to look as if the only certain winners of the Titanic lottery will be the lawyers employed to untangle the legal mess.

© Times Newspapers Limited, 1985

Labour repelled, ethos updated: John Rae charts the revival of independent education

New life for the old school

priorities of the traditional public school. As with other revolutions, the real discontinuities are difficult to identify. The worship of games is dead, but the fatal blow theretofore had been struck by the First World War, not by the Sixties. Music and art have come in from the cold but the prevailing attitudes in some schools are still pretty philistine.

Two breaks with the past did occur. The old-style public schools made a virtue of isolation: from home and parents, from the opposite sex, from inferior institutions and social groups, from the local community. It was possible to spend a 13-week term without seeing your mother and father, without talking to a girl, without contact with any of your contemporaries outside the circle of schools with which sporting fixtures were thought appropriate.

The revolution swept away the taboos that authenticated isolation. Socially the schools are as exclusive as ever but in every other way they are very much in touch with the currents of contemporary life.

Modernization soon won back the customers. Presenting a united front to the political enemy took longer. The great schools were not keen to throw in their lot with what Bernard Shaw called "their lesser and more pernicious imitators". Headmasters thought the headmistresses would be a liability, headmistresses thought the headmasters were not much interested in the survival of the girls' schools (a shrewd assessment as it turned out). Agreement to set up the Independent Schools Information Service in 1972 was achieved only because a few determined individuals were convinced of the need for a sophisticated publicity machine to speak for all independent schools.

The independent schools were fortunate that their determination to take the attack to the enemy coincided both with the rise of a new right-wing ideology and with Labour's failure to mobilize its intellectuals in support of its education policy. Labour's threats could be brutally expressed but under cross-examination they had almost no intellectual content.

The ideologies of the New Right, from Caroline Cox to Roger Scruton, were altogether tougher and more convincing. They attacked the progressive consensus, arguing for standards and choice. By 1980, they had established a right-wing hegemony in education and it was the turn of the egalitarians to go on the defensive.

In the new political climate, the independent schools pulled off a notable coup. They persuaded the Conservatives to launch the assisted places scheme to give some poorer children an independent education. The scheme did extend choice but only in the sense that two extra lifelines would have extended choice aboard the Titanic. A few more children were enabled to escape the sinking ship, but what happened to those left behind did not appear to concern the independent sector - an example of self-interest it may live to regret.

As long as the New Right ideology is in the ascendancy the independent schools will be secure. There is no sign of the left getting its intellectual act together. Labour has no idea how to reconcile popular demand for higher standards, better discipline and more choice with a policy to abolish the very schools that are thought to epitomize these virtues. It is a measure of the independent schools' achievement that Neil Kinnock and Roy Hattersley, both of whom have sworn to slay the dragon, will be in no hurry to set out the dragon's lair if Labour wins the next election. Whatever else may be true of the independent sector in the 1980s, it is no longer a soft target.

© Times Newspapers Limited, 1985

Will the glow turn to glower?

John O'Sullivan

New York. The joke goes that when aides were planning President Nixon's 1972 campaign and finding the prospects thin, one resourceful fellow came up with a potentially winning slogan: "He kept it out of Ulster."

Most Americans regard the Northern Ireland conflict as incomprehensible and, happily, nothing to do with them. But in this vast sea of unconcern are studded a few islands of passionate intensity. The fierce minority of Irish-Americans who sympathize with the IRA is naturally hostile to the Anglo-Irish agreement on the familiar Republican grounds that no bread is better than half a loaf.

But there is a second minority to which the British government has mainly directed its hopes - the editorial writers and congressmen interested in the Irish question who were caught uncomfortably between their distaste for terrorism and their vague emotional belief in the inevitability of a united Ireland. They wanted a solid liberal middle way (leading to Irish unity, of course, if by a winding route) which they could endorse with a good conscience. And the agreement might almost have been designed to give them one. Here is a solution which plainly aims to unite moderate men on both sides against the extremists. It has won great support. The entire enterprise is bathed in a premature glow of achievement.

But what practical value does the British government hope to gain? It would like to see stronger American action against Noraid fund-raising and other assistance for IRA terrorism. There is, however, little room for improvement here. The Reagan administration, hostile to terrorism in general, has tried its best to hamper IRA support groups. But the US legal system and the absolutist commitment of civil rights groups to the rights of "political refugees" have combined to prevent, for instance, the removal of the "political exemption" from the US-UK extradition treaty.

That leaves the hope of American economic aid for Northern Ireland. This particular wish looks like being granted. Last Monday, the House of Representatives voted to support the agreement "through appropriate United States assistance, including economic and financial support, to promote the economic and social development of distressed areas in both parts of Ireland. Very gratifying, since \$500 million is the figure generally quoted."

But there is, as so often, a snag.

This aid is not likely to be paid until for long unless the agreement succeeds in other ways. It must provide the basis for a stable political development in which all sections of the community will join. Above all, it must reduce the level of violence significantly. Unfortunately, the House of Representatives will not be very influential here.

It is people in Northern Ireland, therefore, who will determine whether the agreement succeeds in particular, the Unionists (now more or less united for the first time since the collapse of Stormont) and the Provisional IRA. What will be its impact on them?

It would be difficult to persuade the Unionists of the agreement's value in any event. But the arguments being used by ministers to defend it are so absurd as to convince Unionists that they are being deceived and must therefore be about to be betrayed.

It is said, for instance, that they have gained a great benefit in the Irish government's guarantee not to demand Irish unity without majority consent in the North. Since the Irish Republic could not annex the North against the wishes of the British government, why should its pledge not to do so be regarded as a great gain by Unionists?

Unionists, alarmed, then seek a referendum on the agreement. They are soothed by the assurance that it has no little constitutional significance to justify such a step. But when the latest step was contemplated of creating devolutionary assemblies in Scotland and Wales, this was held to require a two-thirds referendum majority.

The effect of such transparent discrimination must be to stiffen Unionist resistance and to make the agreement unworkable in the long term.

The hopes that the agreement will dry up support for the IRA in the Catholic community and so cause it to shrink further can be dismissed. The Provos no longer depend on significant popular support.

They will conclude that the agreement is a further concession by the British government towards the idea of a united Ireland, a further sign of weakness - and that one more push will do the job.

Last year, 64 people were killed in Northern Ireland, the lowest figure since 1970. The status quo, much denounced, was an improving one. Will the level of violence be higher next year? If so, the House of Representatives is likely to be extremely indignant.

Philip Howard

Man mustn't bite newshound

"What is news?" said journo Pilate, and would not stay for an answer, because he had to get tomorrow's edition out. "What news?" says Hamlet to his two-faced friend. "What are the news?" Dalziel is supposed to have asked Billy Russell in the Crimea. Back across the wires the electric message came, according to Times folklore: "Not a damned new."

The anecdote is intended to illustrate the irritating way that words in English change their number, no matter how much pedants complain. It also illustrates the irritating way in which journalists claim to be the only ones who know what is news. It is, after all, their métier. News sense is their professional skill.

In fact news is not an absolute or objective value. One man's news is another man's boredom. For keen folk-dancers the splash in Petronella and Pas de Basque Proclamation is more news than anything out of Westminster or Wembley, even though it leaves the rest of us unmoved. People try to define news without ever arriving at an exhaustive definition.

News is something that somebody does not want to see published. Well, up to a point, in the case of investigative reporting of scandal and secrets to high places. On the other hand, no doubt the television celebrities and recent visitors are all keen to read scabrous accounts of their private lives in the grotty gossip columns. Does their reluctance to see it published make such title-tattle news?

The classic definition of news is: If a man bites a dog, that is news. The alternative and fuller version, ascribed to Charles A. Dana, editor of the New York Sun, is: "If a dog bites a man it's a story; if a man bites a dog it's a good story." I am not entirely persuaded by this definition either. In certain circumstances for man to bite a dog seems the natural and unremarkable thing to do.

News is such an elusive and subjective value judgment, and Fleet Street is such a competitive and insecure place, that you get fashions in news. Night newscasters devour the early editions of the opposition to see whether they have been scooped and to try to catch up. Next morning, at conference, there are post-mortems. When one dog barks at a particular piece of news, the whole pack start howling. And so, for a brief fashion, until the pack moves on, the Bishop of Exeter can preach no sermon and the Prince of Wales can say nothing about anything without sending themselves all over the front pages.

The chief press secretary to the Prime Minister accused the press the other day of suffering from the Le Carré syndrome and conspiracy theory - that the government is inevitably up to no good. Watergate, he said, has a lot to answer for. In this case the chief press secretary misinterpreted news and the role of the press. It is not 'he, she, it' as a megaphone for the government, but

to ask itself, when told anything by officialdom or anybody with an axe to grind: "Why are these lying bastards lying to me?"

News is what somebody will pay 25p (from Monday) to read. Since there is no such thing as a free lunch, there is almost nothing under the sun or over the moon that will not be news to somebody. But newspapers that do not catch the news sense of enough people go bust. News is the aberrant, the unexpected, the novel. That is why public complaints that all the news is bad are misguided. Glasgow shuffles arrives on time, no crash, no hijack, is not news. The prophet Isaiah can say, "How beautiful upon the mountains are



Chris Wormley

the feet of him that brings good tidings", incidentally giving feet an honourable place in literature. But he would have made a lousy editor.

The other popular misconception about the press is that it is written and run by thick-skulled intellectuals who are unrepresentative of the general public. The next of a fascinating conference on the subject in the United States has just been published under the title *A Liberal Media Elite* by J. Rupert Murdoch, Ben Bradlee, and other captains of the ink trade debate with vain the proposition that American journalists, in their background, attitudes, and voting records, are divorced from the traditions of middle America.

In my observation the best journalists are not party political but unbelievers in politics. A good journalist would come near to knocking over his grandmother and kicking out her teeth to get the truth. He would certainly not be diverted from it by ideology. The fact that right-wing commentators complain about the "liberal consensus" in the press, and Vanessa Springuel, in *Left Street*, suggests that the press is performing its job, is a dramatic, cynical watchdog role. The Times was nicknamed the *Furnace* because it published its own rather than any party line, long before it was called the *Thundervoice*.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 9EZ.
Telephone: 01-837 1234

REAGAN vs THE REST

Like old ships' hulls the tax codes of the western nations are barnacled with exemptions, reliefs and concessions. Even those leaders most convinced of the need for fiscal careening, Mrs Thatcher among them, have their fawn "ste" and lack the political strength to scrape the limps placed, say, by the pensions industry. Yet President Reagan's plan of tax reform, the centrepiece of his second term domestic agenda, was a magnificent effort to cleanse the heavily encrusted US tax system that would have had useful international repercussions.

That plan now seems to have run out of time and political steam. The president was this week rebuffed by his own party. Some of the blame for the failure of tax reform in the House of Representatives must be carried by the White House where party intelligence has surely been lacking. But the blame is also Congress's.

The president's plan began losing as soon as it was placed under the tender care of Representative Rostenkowski. His committee, Ways and Means, treated the tax legislation like a Christmas tree, loading it with gifts. One by one the committee replaced tax concessions removed in the president's plan. The beneficiaries included such needy groups as the owners of shops which hire out dinner jackets, payers of mortgage interest on second homes, and investors in race horses (given five years to offset their losses against tax).

As the president requested, builders of sports stadiums and convention facilities were to be deprived of the privilege of issuing tax-free bonds - except, the committee insisted, in Cleveland, Miami, Chicago, Memphis and so on.

In the event, even Mr Rostenkowski's concessions were not enough. The Republicans, displeased that Mr Reagan was prepared to accept such a truncated version of his original plan, were joined by a motley of Democrats whose special interests had not been adequately protected.

Having surrendered on tax reform, the Congress on Thursday surrendered its budget-making power in what must be counted an astonishing abdication. The legislation known by the names of its senatorial sponsors, Gramm-Rudman-Hollings decrees that by the financial year beginning in 1990 the American budget deficit will disappear. So much is welcome. But the means to that end are alarming, first, because they demonstrate the cowardice of the Congressional representatives of the American people and second because the military capacity of the United States, including the progress of the Strategic Defense Initiative, could be impaired.

STRASBOURG MISCHIEF

If the European Parliament is really serious about securing an increase in its own power, it is going quite the wrong way about it. Some of its members may feel that its aggressive tactics in first turning down the package of Community reforms agreed at the Luxembourg summit, and then rejecting the draft budget as well as some kind of emulation of the pressure exerted by the English Parliament in its formative years of gaining power against the crown. If they do think this, they misunderstand both the past and the present.

For one thing the European Parliament's urge to commit the Community to spend more money than the Council and Commission propose is in contrast to the historic wish of the English Parliament to give the Crown less money than it wanted (though that, alas, is no longer a feature of Westminster party government). That may seem a pedantic comparison, but it illustrates a fundamental truth - which is that the English Parliament genuinely represented and negotiated on behalf of the citizens who sent its members to Westminster.

That is not the position of the European Parliament. Though it may huff and puff, Strasbourg lacks sufficient wind power to force either the Council of Ministers or national Parliaments to bend to its way of thinking, and these are the places of ultimate power in a Community of sovereign states.

There is a great deal of bluff in the Parliament's actions. It has, to start with, no authority over the Luxembourg package. The only serious weight behind its rejection of the Luxembourg package this week, and its intention of systematic amendment, if the Council of Ministers do not bend to its will next week (which they will not

The macroeconomic consequences of the recent ballooning of the federal deficit can be argued over. What is undeniable is that it represents a dangerous failure of political control, the near-collapse of the annual budget-making process. Reducing the deficit is a necessary exercise in democratic politics. With Gramm-Rudman-Hollings, Congress hands the president an axe which it is itself scared to use.

It is easy to blame the size of the deficit on Mr Reagan's success in 1981 in securing major tax cuts and on the (passing) fashion for supply-side economics. There is an intriguing idea (attributed to the former budget director, Mr David Stockman) that the budget deficit has been diabolically engineered precisely in order to put intense pressure on Congress to make or concede large-scale reductions in federal spending. Whatever the proportions of blame that attach to Congress and White House the point now is to see the United States pass swiftly through this crisis of governability without harming either American national security or the defence of the West.

The mood of the American public - and the President's proven capacity to lead - give ground for optimism about that passage. The need for tough action on the deficit is widely perceived, even to the point of accepting reductions in the real value of government pensions and benefits, even to the point of conceding some increase in the burden of taxation. Here is material for the president, and thoughtful elements on both sides of Congress to build on.

A deficit reduction package must involve spending cuts, including outlays on America's increasingly prosperous retirement pensioners. The butter can, in other words, be sliced a little. The recent evidence of waste in Pentagon procurement indicates that there are some relatively painless savings to be made on the cost of guns. Such savings are not enough to eliminate the budget deficit. The circle can probably only be squared by an increase in tax revenues. President Reagan has made opposition to high-tax rates, especially on income, the keynote of his politics. But there is scope for additional taxes and an expansion of the tax base.

During the next two years the president must seriously examine these options, if his defence policies are to be kept on course. Extra revenue would unfortunately feed the maw of the Congressional spending machine. But finding it would send a necessary message to the United States' friends and enemies alike: the nation's fiscal health is as good as its military capacity is strong.

Doubts on social work training

From Mrs R.F. Lait
Sir, It is ironic that the Director of the Council for Education and Training in Social Work now complains (December 10) that because social sciences in universities are being cut back, social-work training courses also suffer. Her organisation has been prominent in a campaign to establish the academic credentials of social work. If she believes that its underlying disciplines are endangered and worth saving she should campaign for them rather than seek to make a special case for social work.

In the universal call for yet more social-work training from those with a vested interest or an innocent faith in its usefulness, there is no place for a request for proof that academic training, however protracted, leads to better social work? There is no reliable evidence that training improves performance, some that it adds the brains of those who receive it.

To describe social workers as "retrained by greed and sociology," as an article recently read put it, is perhaps a little extreme, but as one who has both received and been asked to participate in university training in this elusive activity, I am convinced that it has at best a peripheral and at worst a malign influence on students.

Yours,
J.M. LAIT
7 High View Gardens,
Derwent Park,
Swansea, West Glamorgan.
December 10.

Matters of morality

From Mr F.C. Wright
Sir, Lord Hailsham (report, December 12) cannot be wrong in deploring the present state of our society, but it is on record that he and other older statesmen, who pull their heads out of the sand every now and again to express similar views, were active parliamentarians when a series of retrograde laws were being passed that were the bricks and mortar of a future permissive society!

What is not on record, however, is the evidence of any one of them making the House shake with the thunder of their condemnation of such laws.

Parliament's paramount duty should be to foster the nation's integrity, but this it has miserably failed to do.

Yours faithfully,
F.C. WRIGHT,
103 Chalcot Estate,
Hammers Lane, NW7.
December 12.

'Names' at Lloyd's

From Major F.N.L. Chapman
Sir, It is regrettable that ministers who are "names" at Lloyd's should be singled out as if, in some way, they are personally responsible for the administration of the syndicate to which they belong.

As a "name" myself on a number of syndicates, my function seems to be to lodge a fairly substantial sum of money with Lloyd's and then hope for the best and vote occasionally for a few other "names", whom I neither know nor have heard of, to represent me on the council.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK L. CHAPMAN,
Thorne,
Friday Street,
Painkwick, Gloucestershire.
December 11.

Many hands

From Mr Michael Kaye
Sir, I read with interest your report (December 13) on questions in the House of Lords about the cost of the new management structure for the South Bank Concert Halls.

I was general administrator of the three concert halls from 1980 to 1983 and also as Arts Director to the GLC, responsible for the management of the GLC's three historic houses (Kenwood, Marble Hill House and Ranger's House), and for the administration of the council's wide and expanding range of grants to the arts, totalling several million pounds.

My day did seem rather full at the time, and I was somewhat anguished when my post was abolished - and me with it - but I can now see that the GLC had identified the lone secretary who, according to Lord Somers, was really carrying the load.

I think she too must have left subsequently, as my jobs were later re-established. The appointment of 11 directors to replace her (or part of me) does seem a bit exaggerated, though.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL KAYE,
3 Coppice Way,
South Woodford, E18.
December 13.

Pensions surpluses

From Mr Giles Keating
Sir, There are many competing claimants for the £50 billion cash surplus in pension funds estimated by the London Business School (report, November 25).

"Ordinary" (November 28), who include former employees with pensions eroded by inflation, must argue their case against companies that topped up the funds when they ran into trouble in the 1970s and the Inland Revenue, which has provided subsidies through tax relief.

The vital point is the existence of a huge excess of assets over pension obligations, of which few people were aware. Our report drew attention to this surplus and recommended its elimination by a reduction in contributions or an increase in benefits. Both help the "ordinary worker".

However, money which received full tax relief when paid into the funds should be taxed when taken

Oxford seen through different eyes

From the Reverend Michael Doe

Sir, As the vicar of a housing estate on the edge of Oxford, comprising nearly one tenth of the city's population, perhaps I should no longer be surprised that letters which speak of "our alarm at the threat to the historic environment of our city from indiscriminate development" (December 10) should be able to muster no fewer than five signatories from the House of Lords before including lesser mortals like me and colleagues etc.

The one thing they do not mention, of course, is that there are presently 3,400 people on the council housing list. And yet it is their form of academic myopia which has caused this problem, and therefore the urgent need for more land to be made available for low-income family housing.

It is the colleges which have pushed the price of housing beyond that which ordinary working people can afford. And not content with their control of the city west of Magdalen Bridge, it is they who are mainly to blame for the gradual gentrification of east Oxford - "Bread-faced the whale" stickers in every other window!

Oxford needs more low-income housing. It needs more jobs. It also needs, of course, to preserve its heritage. I have long thought that one answer would be for the university to move to, say, Milton

Keynes, thereby making student accommodation and much other housing available for poorer families and single people, beginning with the increasing number sentenced to "bed and breakfast".

Above all, Oxford needs to know that the great and the good who inhabit the leafy avenues of north Oxford have as much concern for the needs of their fellow citizens as they evidently have for the civic past.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL D. DOE,
Priest-Missioner, Blackbird Leys,
Church House,
1 Cuddesdon Way,
Oxford,
December 10.

From Mrs Vanessa C.M. Pearn
Sir, Oxford is not alone as a city in need of protection from indiscriminate development (Lord Bullock, December 10). We have had listed buildings for many years. Would it not therefore be a good idea to have listed towns and cities as well?

A suitable grading system could be devised with corresponding planning and development restrictions, which would then protect our historic civic environments, and not simply individual buildings.

Yours faithfully,
VANESSA C.M. PEARN,
7 Divinity Road, Oxford,
December 10.

herself would be looking for a place with them soon.

In the event she was able to hold on till she was given a brand new bungalow on the Brinnington estate outside Stockport. By her standards it was sumptuous, but cold and damp as the condensation was still running off the walls.

It was the priest who rescued her when she was nearly dying of hypothermia and found her a place immediately in the Little Sisters' Home in Liverpool. As soon as she got her strength back she moved to their home in Manchester, to be nearer her friends. And it was there, in the hospice part of the home, surrounded by loving care, that she eventually died - with the dignity which she never lost despite her final dependency on others.

The State had seen that she had "something to live on", but it was her Church that had seen to it that she had "something to live for, and something to live by".

Yours faithfully,
BARBARA N. RODGERS,
19 High Street,
Grassington,
Nr. Northwick,
Cheshire,
December 10.

From the Reverend Prebendary K.B. Cresswell
Sir, The Church of England, like a nationalised bus company, is required to serve the whole nation, not just the profitable parts, in terms of the number of worshippers.

Much of its manpower and resources is tied up in the countless country parishes with their church buildings, church schools and a ministry to maintain.

In his article, "Time to join the urban struggle" (December 9), is Clifford Longley suggesting that the church should pull out of these "unprofitable areas" which are just as poor as the inner cities? It cannot do both.

As one who has worked in the inner cities and the country I know that the Roman Catholic Church has no monopoly of parishes maintained by the "pennies of the poor".

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH B. CRESSWELL,
96 Lambert Road,
Inxter,
Staffordshire,
December 10.

Galloic growth

From Sir John Walley

Sir, Your correspondent, Gillian Tindall (feature, December 7) must be a very simple-minded observer of life. As a "name" myself on a number of syndicates, my function seems to be to lodge a fairly substantial sum of money with Lloyd's and then hope for the best and vote occasionally for a few other "names", whom I neither know nor have heard of, to represent me on the council.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK L. CHAPMAN,
Thorne,
Friday Street,
Painkwick, Gloucestershire.
December 11.

Second best

From Mr Michael Elwyn

Sir, On a recent picnic we discovered that we were knifeless when the moment came to divide the hard-boiled eggs in two. A swift cut with the edge of a credit card proved surprisingly effective.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ELWYN,
103 Laidwood Road, SW12.

out. We have not suggested (though others have) that this revenue be used to finance tax cuts.

Mr Todd denies our authority to comment on this matter but we believe that £50 billion is too large a sum to be allocated by default rather than by debate.

Yours faithfully,
GILES KEATING, Editor,
Financial Outlook,
London Business School,
Sussex Place,
Regent's Park, NW1,
December 6.

Education and industry

From Mr Adrian Bridgewater

Sir, Geoffrey Chandler (December 2) is betting on a certainty. If his premises for Industry Year is that it seeks to break the vicious cycle whereby industry, the inadequate performer, attracts the least talented

performer, the less adequate itself, then it has been launched three years after the race was won.

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN BRIDGEWATER,
As from: The Garrick Club,
Garrick Street, WC2,
December 2.

No way to divide art and design

From the President of the Royal Academy of Arts

Sir, While I was sorry to see from their letter (December 2) that Mr Ian Tregarthen Jenkin and Mr Myles Murphy have resigned from the National Advisory Body's Art and Design Working Group, I strongly applaud their reasons for doing so.

The presence, on the group, of people with their experience must have provided at least some reassurance to many in art and design education. Although, therefore, there will doubtless be others who regret these resignations, there is bound to be widespread support for the belief that has caused them: that art and design are essentially interrelated and need to be presented as such.

It seems deplorable that decisions may have been taken, which are expected to result in substantial closure of art courses, possibly in the mistaken impression that resources thus released could be used for the improvement of design, albeit in the absence of art.

If the response to NAB's "confidential document" referred to in *The Times* on December 9, is accurate in predicting that "As many as 18,000 full-time student places are threatened in 1987-88" and that "600 to 900 courses could be closed", it seems likely that provision in art may well be expected substantially to contribute to such reductions.

I very much hope that it may not be too late for the NAB to reconsider the wisdom of its apparent decisions to plan for the separation of art and design. The history of design is in no way lacking in evidence of the overall influence for good which artists have made, and continue to make, in contributing to the achievement of excellence in design.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER de GREY, President,
Royal Academy of Arts,
Piccadilly, W1,
December 12.

'Shakespeare' poem

From the General Editor of The Oxford Shakespeare

Sir, Julian Grenier (December 7) correctly remarks that the word "scanty" found in the poem whose early ascription to Shakespeare has recently been brought to light, occurs nowhere else in Shakespeare and is first recorded in the *Oxford English Dictionary* in 1660. But this does not prove that the poem is not by Shakespeare.

Shakespeare used many words once only; and he was a great creator of words. *OED* records over 2,000 that appear for the first time in his acknowledged writings; at least 20 of these are like "scanty", adjectives formed from a well established noun with the addition of terminal "-y". They include such now-familiar words as "gloomy", "muddy", "nervy", and "stealthy". Moreover, we now know of over 140 words used by Shakespeare earlier than the first date given for them in the great, but fallible, dictionary.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY WELLS, General Editor,
The Oxford Shakespeare,
40 Walton Crescent,
Oxford,
December 9.

From Mr Jim McCue
Sir, It is not improbable that Shakespeare or another writer used the word "scanty" many years before the first citation in the *Oxford English Dictionary*. "Scant", "scanted", and "scants" are used by Shakespeare a total of 20 times.

Jürgen Schäfer's *Documentation in the OED* lists 1,904 words cited first from Shakespeare by the *OED*. A further 141 Shakespearean words antedate the first record in the dictionary, 11 per cent of them by more than 100 years.

Yours sincerely,
JIM McCUE,
32 Holmewood Ridge,
Langton Green,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent,
December 7.

Sale of farm drugs

From Mr J.B. Walsby

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Desmond Hopwood, in his letter of November 30 comments on current veterinary practice prices for prescription-only drugs. He implies that farmers think they are more expensive than is necessary and attributes this to poor buying power and lack of marketing by individual practices.

He suggests one solution would be for practices to form buying groups. The Medicines Act 1968 restricts veterinary surgeons' sale of drugs to clients whose animals are under their care. It is illegal to supply another veterinary surgeon unless a wholesale licence is held. His second solution refers to the specialist veterinary wholesaler.

My own company fulfilled both his objectives 21 years ago and now comprises well over 1,000 shareholding veterinary surgeons, all with an equity number of shares; a mutual company distributing all its profits to its members as a rebate on purchases.

It is significant that in the last few years the proportion of non-prescription drugs sold by the profession against competition from agricultural merchants and pharmacists has risen substantially and continues to do so: a testament to honest marketing at realistic pricing.

Yours faithfully,
J.B. WALSBY, Chairman,
Centaur Services Ltd,
Centaur House,
Torbay Road,
Castle Cary,
Somerset,
December 2.

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 14 1903

A few of the score of news items on this foreign page during the period (1899-1912) when Valentine (later Sir) Chiral was Head of the Foreign Department.

GENERAL BOTHA AND THE BRITISH

CAPE TOWN, Dec. 12.

The attorney, Mr. Michau, gives a positive answer to the statement published yesterday regarding the agreement between General Botha and Mr. Groves, whereby it was said that General Botha undertook to abstain from further hostility towards Lord Milner, while Mr. Groves supported the appeal to the Empire in support of the objects of the Transvaal Lands Syndicate, which was to obtain assistance for British, Colonial and Boer farmers.

THE RUSSO-JAPANESE NEGOTIATIONS

RUSSIAN REPLY RECEIVED.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

TOKIO, DECEMBER 13.
The Russian reply to Japan's proposals of October 30 reached Tokio on the 11th inst. The contents are kept secret, but it is generally believed that the Russian reply is a compromise between the two countries.

THE BRITISH MISSION TO TIBET

BOMBAY, Dec. 12.

According to present information there is every reason to believe that the Tibetan mission to the British Mission and its escort, but will confine themselves to the usual formal protests. The forward movement is expected to take place immediately.

THE SHANGHAI SEDITIOUS CASE

SHANGHAI, Dec. 13.

The Chinese authorities have assented to the trial by the Mixed Court of the native journalist under arrest in connection with the Seditious case who is also charged with rebellion at Han-kau in 1900.

COUNT VON BULOW

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, Dec. 13.

Count von Bulow's speech of last week, and more especially his references to France, has made little impression here. If the truth must be told, Count von Bulow probably enjoys less prestige and authority abroad than any of his predecessors. His name is seldom mentioned in the French Press. He is regarded more as an amiable and accomplished diplomatist and man of the world than as a statesman of mark - rather as a bird of paradise than an eagle. He has never given the French any reason to dislike him, but they certainly do not stand in awe of him, nor wish the word of his utterances in the Reichstag.

The *Aurore*, now one of the leading French Republican journals, disposes in a brief paragraph headed "Bebel and Bulow" of what it describes as one of the most insignificant personalities of the Reichstag. The writer says that the Chancellor tried to ward off the slashing blows of that ruthless scribbler by executing with surprising address a series of piousnesses accompanied by pin pricks that earned for him the enthusiastic approval of the monarchist majority. "Nevertheless," adds the writer, "it was trying for the parties of reaction to listen to Bebel denouncing the financial abuses towards which the Empire is drifting, ridiculing the costly purities of the army... and stigmatising the pliancy of Germany which crawls on its stomach before the Tsar's police while condemning German citizens for lese-majeste towards the Emperor of Russia..."

THE STUDENT DISTURBANCES AT KIEFF

KIEFF, Dec. 11.

The ringleaders of the disturbances in the University here have succeeded in bringing about an almost complete cessation of classes in private houses. The University order is being maintained by police and Cossacks.

DECEMBER 13.

Order prevailed in the University yesterday, and lectures were delivered in several of the halls to small audiences. In the Polytechnic Institute about 400 students held a meeting, in spite of the temporary closing of that establishment, and discussed the indignities offered to Jewish students by Russians. A proclamation issued by the Governor orders the administrative punishment of 35 persons, who had organized meetings in private houses with a view to concerting measures hostile to the State and dangerous to maintenance of public order. These persons will be placed under arrest for a period varying from one week to three months. Among them are 19 Jews.

Guiding light

From Mr Philip Chantler

Sir, Worcester may have had it for wit (Mr Cullis's letter, December 10) but not Manchester to be practical. Its tramcars had over the saloon doors the injunction, "Spitting prohibited". Below, however, was a coloured picture of quays, cranes and ships, with the advice, "Use the Manchester Ship Canal."

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP CHANTLER,
4 Tyburn Court,
York,
December 10.

Victorian values?

From Mr C.K. Lam

Sir, Before I came to England some years ago, I was told that the proper English greetings should be, "Merry Christmas and happy New Year." Now everybody seems to wish me a merry Christmas and a prosperous new year instead!

Yours faithfully,
C.K. LAM,
London House,
Mecklenburgh Square, WC1.
December 11.



for Natural Stone at the Royal Institute of British Architects, 66 Portland Place, W.1.

Afterwards, His Royal Highness visited the Drawings Collection of the Royal Institute of British Architects at 21 Portman Square, W.1.

Captain Peter Owen-Edmunds was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 12: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present this evening at the Olympia International Showjumping Championships at Olympia.

The Hon Mrs Wills was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
December 13: The Duchess of Kent, Patron of the Spastics Society, today visited Beech Tree (North London) Bridge, and later presented British Rail's Award for the Best Kept Stations in Lancashire at Preston Station.

Mrs Peter Wilmut-Stitwell was in attendance.

INSOLVENCY TION ERSIAN NTAL RUGS

have suspended export
ctions of Persian
(Established 1954).
e auctioneers to realise
ntire stocks in bonded
move prior to foreclosure.

NOTORY
 Ispahans, Nains, Ashers,
 Sallays, Sarouk Ghrocks.
 pieces.
 K Kaysaris, Meias, Doshemalti,
 other village pieces.
*Major hand weaving centres of
 our old and unique pieces.*
On view and sale
by Briscoe & Partners Ltd
Street, London W1.

**SH, CHEQUE &
 CREDIT CARDS.**

[illegible]

the wages of sin, or at any rate in 1976, were set at £1,080,000, and the sale was held by Sotheby's yesterday. That was the first time that the artist had been paid by an anonymous bidder for a work of art. The anonymous bidder was a woman, possibly a young woman, carrying with his moll and a small child. The work was by the artist, carrying with his moll and a small child. The work was by the artist, carrying with his moll and a small child.

[illegible][illegible]

MR EMANUEL KELSEY

Mr Emanuel Kelsey, who died on December 11 at the age of 80, was the Greater London Council's first Solicitor and Parliamentary Officer, having held senior legal posts with the old London County Council, of which he was also for a short period Solicitor before its replacement by the GLC.

Born on February 16, 1905 Kelsey was educated at King Edward VI School, Morpeth, and Durham University.

Qualifying as a solicitor in 1929 he was for two years prosecuting solicitor for the Commissioner of Crown Lands and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries before joining the LCC in its Parliamentary Department.

Seconded to the Home Office during the war, he dealt with disciplinary matters in the National Fire Service.

In 1947 he became Principal Solicitor to the LCC and Parliamentary Division of the council, exercising powers over the legal activities. One of his major tasks was to take charge of a massive amount of work which arose from the National Health Act 1946, the National Assistance Act 1948.

In 1962 he became Solicitor to the LCC and in 1964 Solicitor and Parliamentary Officer. Later he was appointed Solicitor to new GLC and held a post of great value in the transition which followed the 1963 London Government which constituted the new London Boroughs.

Kelsey remained Solicitor to the GLC until 1970 when he retired.

He leaves a widow, a daughter.

A.T. writes: The obituary of Philip Larkin (December 3), though acknowledging him as "pre-eminent among Britain's postwar poets", too completely overlooked his restraint, narrowness, stressing his limitations and ignoring both his wider appeal and his surprisingly varied public roles. It made no mention of his prose collection *Required Writing* (1983), which was extremely well received (winning the W.H. Smith prize), became a best-seller in a way that astonished his publishers and himself, and was the source of other things his very wide range of reading and his unerring wit. Though essentially a private man, he gave much time to work on behalf of his fellow writers: he served on the Literature Panel of the Arts Council of Great Britain, was particularly active in first setting up and then guiding the Arts Council's National Manuscript Collection of Contempor-

Further to the obituary of November 30, more explicit tribute should perhaps be paid to Geoffrey Grigson's profound and inspirational interest in English nineteenth-century art, and especially to his various publications on Samuel Palmer, which did much to restore the artist's reputation.

In an acerbic essay on Palmer, "The Politics of an Artist", in *Horizons* in 1941, Grigson made the significant lament that little was known of English artists and that there existed "only the beginnings of a knowledge of the work of the painters then unjustly neglected but now restored to favour."

That Palmer is prominent among them is in large measure due to Grigson's forceful, illuminating and often moving prose that crystallized the response already being felt by

Attracted to Palmer's tragic victim of the element and, less controversially, as a visual poet, the Hogarthian painter, he was also fascinated by the technical qualities of his work and of his own European romances.

"Samuel Palmer at the end of his career" appeared in *Signature* and led in turn to an in book, *Samuel Palmer: Visionary Years*, a decade later.

A further book, *Shortland Years*, with a foreword by the artist, appeared in 1960. Grigson's wider interests in English art led to a study of *English Landscape Painting from Samuel Coleridge to John Ruskin*, published in 1955.

Mr Nicholas... Michael, FSA, FRCGS, Muniments, Westminster Abbey since November 24. He was 53

17-2440
 17-2441
 17-2442
 17-2443
 17-2444
 17-2445
 17-2446
 17-2447
 17-2448
 17-2449
 17-2450
 17-2451
 17-2452
 17-2453
 17-2454
 17-2455
 17-2456
 17-2457
 17-2458
 17-2459
 17-2460
 17-2461
 17-2462
 17-2463
 17-2464
 17-2465
 17-2466
 17-2467
 17-2468
 17-2469
 17-2470
 17-2471
 17-2472
 17-2473
 17-2474
 17-2475
 17-2476
 17-2477
 17-2478
 17-2479
 17-2480
 17-2481
 17-2482
 17-2483
 17-2484
 17-2485
 17-2486
 17-2487
 17-2488
 17-2489
 17-2490
 17-2491
 17-2492
 17-2493
 17-2494
 17-2495
 17-2496
 17-2497
 17-2498
 17-2499
 17-2500
 17-2501
 17-2502
 17-2503
 17-2504
 17-2505
 17-2506
 17-2507
 17-2508
 17-2509
 17-2510
 17-2511
 17-2512
 17-2513
 17-2514
 17-2515
 17-2516
 17-2517
 17-2518
 17-2519
 17-2520
 17-2521
 17-2522
 17-2523
 17-2524
 17-2525
 17-2526
 17-2527
 17-2528
 17-2529
 17-2530
 17-2531
 17-2532
 17-2533
 17-2534
 17-2535
 17-2536
 17-2537
 17-2538
 17-2539
 17-2540
 17-2541
 17-2542
 17-2543
 17-2544
 17-2545
 17-2546
 17-2547
 17-2548
 17-2549
 17-2550
 17-2551
 17-2552
 17-2553
 17-2554
 17-2555
 17-2556
 17-2557
 17-2558
 17-2559
 17-2560
 17-2561
 17-2562
 17-2563
 17-2564
 17-2565
 17-2566
 17-2567
 17-2568
 17-2569
 17-2570
 17-2571
 17-2572
 17-2573
 17-2574
 17-2575
 17-2576
 17-2577
 17-2578
 17-2579
 17-2580
 17-2581
 17-2582
 17-2583
 17-2584
 17-2585
 17-2586
 17-2587
 17-2588
 17-2589
 17-2590
 17-2591
 17-2592
 17-2593
 17-2594
 17-2595
 17-2596
 17-2597
 17-2598
 17-2599
 17-2600
 17-2601
 17-2602
 17-2603
 17-2604
 17-2605
 17-2606
 17-2607
 17-2608
 17-2609
 17-2610
 17-2611
 17-2612
 17-2613
 17-2614
 17-2615
 17-2616
 17-2617
 17-2618
 17-2619
 17-2620
 17-2621
 17-2622
 17-2623
 17-2624
 17-2625
 17-2626
 17-2627
 17-2628
 17-2629
 17-2630
 17-2631
 17-2632
 17-2633
 17-2634
 17-2635
 17-2636
 17-2637
 17-2638
 17-2639
 17-2640
 17-2641
 17-2642
 17-2643
 17-2644
 17-2645
 17-2646
 17-2647
 17-2648
 17-2649
 17-2650
 17-2651
 17-2652
 17-2653
 17-2654
 17-2655
 17-2656
 17-2657
 17-2658
 17-2659
 17-2660
 17-2661
 17-2662
 17-2663
 17-2664
 17-2665
 17-2666
 17-2667
 17-2668
 17-2669
 17-2670
 17-2671
 17-2672
 17-2673
 17-2674
 17-2675
 17-2676
 17-2677
 17-2678
 17-2679
 17-2680
 17-2681
 17-2682
 17-2683
 17-2684
 17-2685
 17-2686
 17-2687
 17-2688
 17-2689
 17-2690
 17-2691
 17-2692
 17-2693
 17-2694
 17-2695
 17-2696
 17-2697
 17-2698
 17-2699
 17-2700
 17-2701
 17-2702
 17-2703
 17-2704
 17-2705
 17-2706
 17-2707
 17-2708
 17-2709
 17-2710
 17-2711
 17-2712
 17-2713
 17-2714
 17-2715
 17-2716
 17-2717
 17-2718
 17-2719
 17-2720
 17-2721
 17-2722
 17-2723
 17-2724
 17-2725
 17-2726
 17-2727
 17-2728
 17-2729
 17-2730
 17-2731
 17-2732
 17-2733
 17-2734
 17-2735
 17-2736
 17-2737
 17-2738
 17-2739
 17-2740
 17-2741
 17-2742
 17-2743
 17-2744
 17-2745
 17-2746
 17-2747
 17-2748
 17-2749
 17-2750
 17-2751
 17-2752
 17-2753
 17-2754
 17-2755
 17-2756
 17-2757
 17-2758
 17-2759
 17-2760
 17-2761
 17-2762
 17-2763
 17-2764
 17-2765
 17-2766
 17-2767
 17-2768
 17-2769
 17-2770
 17-2771
 17-2772
 17-2773
 17-2774
 17-2775
 17-2776
 17-2777
 17-2778
 17-2779
 17-2780

These descriptions were divided into three categories: C1, first; C2, first; B, first; and C3, later chewing.

From these preliminary findings a "texture profile" was drawn and panelists judged commercially and experimentally produced beefsteers (on a 1-10 scale) in terms of rubberiness, ease of fragmentation, degree of fragmentation, character of particles and moistness.

Twenty-five commercial brands of beef hamburger were tested, and the panel concluded that they varied most in rubberiness and degree of comminution, and least in ease of fragmentation and overall moistness.

The panel found that the dominant factors in our initial reaction to a burger to be "stress and strain in the mouth" and we felt about "my stomach contents and satisfaction."

On the whole it seems we eat larger burgers, with a "bite" of fat, which also used to be a "crunch" device, to give us compression forces and is a "other" test, including C1 analysis, has produced a dimensional map on which we can place the various degrees of comminution, and the "other" of "chew," better than the "toughness, rubbery, cohesive."

It is hoped that results so far will show that beef with a similar formulation in texture because of processing, and the "other" of "chew," is a standardized manufacturing practice.

December 14-20, 1985

SATURDAY

A weekly guide to leisure, entertainment and the arts

Listening to the sound of light

Read by laser, impervious to harm and with virtually perfect reproduction, the compact disc looks set to oust LPs and cassettes. Nicolas Soames tells how he heard the light; David Prakes explains the system and organizes a sound test

SWITCHING OVER

Impact of the compact

I have a collection of about 300 records, which I consider some of the best I know. I have a collection of about 300 records, which I consider some of the best I know.

Among those LPs are my most treasured possessions, with pride of place going to the recording of Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, by the Paris Conservatoire Orchestra conducted by Carl Schuricht for Decca's Ace of Clubs label in about 1957. I cannot claim a standard of unparalleled technical and interpretive brilliance for this LP - it is just that it was my first, given to me on my ninth birthday, and I know every change of tempo, every idiosyncrasy that Schuricht was subjected to.

For the last year or so, however, I have watched those lines of record shelves gradually accumulate dust. I no longer feel the joy of surveying the choice, taking a selection, sliding an LP out of its cover, and laying it carefully on the turntable. For last November, I invested in a compact disc player.

This was quite an unusual step for me, because I am not a hi-fi buff, does not give me an unqualified personal thrill to test the minutiae of my hi-fi system and see if it will track the untraceable groove, or hold firm and steady through the most abominable pressings. I just like listening to the music.

And that is just what you would get, was told, with CD. No wow, or flutter or hiss or background noise. I was impressed by far more than by the glorious obscurity of the technical jargon.

"This is one of the cheaper ones," said the salesman, with a note of vague distaste. He babbled on about the digital analogue converter and right channels, creating a time lag of 11 microseconds between left and right channel.

information. And did I realize that this station could result in a phase error of no less than 81 degrees at 20kHz?

Blimey, I thought. Perhaps it would be easier to join an orchestra.

Yet the greatest paradox surrounding the compact disc is that it is a medium tailor-made for the scientifically illiterate among us. It is making its greatest impact not so much among the hi-fi buffs but among those who like to put on a record or a cassette and simply listen. It could be argued that if you play Jean-Michel Jarre or Sir Georg Solti through a conventional hi-fi system worth a couple of thousand pounds and then substituted the record deck for a compact disc player, the difference would be measured in relatively small percentages - unlike the poor quality of a cheap turntable.

And, what's more, you can safely leave your house for the weekend to the mercy of your teenagers without worrying that your expensive cartridge will be ruined.

Once you are accustomed to the slight deck plan of some of the more gadgetized compact disc players, the loading and playing of music is as easy as using a microwave.

I wasn't around during the transfer from the dinner-plate 78s to the revolutionary LP, so I don't really know how long it is going to be before my records are stored safely into packing cases and hoisted to the attic.

With the compact discs themselves, costing generally over £10 and world-wide manufacturing capacity unable to meet the demand, it will be some time before CD will offer anything like the range available on LP or cassette.

Just how good the old recordings are going to sound on CD has been shown conclusively by the release of Kathleen Ferrier's historic 1952 recording of "Das Lied von der Erde", which has been transformed phenomenally from cloudy sopra sound to something much closer to reality.

Yet even in 2001 I envisage maintaining a small store of LPs in my living room, and a deck on which to play them. For although most things will come on to CD in the fullness of time, I can't imagine Carl Schuricht and the Paris Conservatoire alternately processing the left and right channels, creating a time lag of 11 microseconds between left and right channel.



Close encounter of the heard kind: singer Judit Tzuke and violinist Nigel Kennedy tune in to the latest audio technology

Trained ears put systems to the test

It was clear from the outset that our test run with the singer Judit Tzuke and award-winning violinist Nigel Kennedy, was intended to be a serious business. "If I can take your word, I will put them down stairs," said our host, hi-fi specialist David Prakes. "They will affect the acoustics of the listening room."

However, it quickly became apparent that, despite their professions, neither Judit nor Nigel were hi-fi minded, and had not yet invested in CD although both were thinking of moving into the medium. "I have a large record collection, but they are all scratched because I don't really look after them," confessed Judit. "I have been aware of CD for some time, but most of the things I like are only just beginning to get onto CD."

Nigel, whose recording of Elgar's Violin Concerto won the Gramophone Record of the Year, and was subsequently rushed out on CD, had the same attitude. "I have been listening to CD at the home of my friend, Cho-Liang Lin in New York, and I was very impressed - although the discs are expensive."

So, having chosen "Fortress Around Your Heart" from the

latest Sting CD for the first test, we sat down to listen to the six machines, presented anonymously in various price order by David Prakes.

Despite their musical background, both Judit and Nigel had earlier questioned their ability to distinguish between the different CD machines at the beginning: performing musicians are notorious for being involved with music and indifferent to recorded sound - unless it is their own. Yet they were quite surprised, after the first two testings, that they agreed on the first preference. It wasn't what you would call scientific scrutiny - more like the judging panel of the Carl Flesch Violin Competition. But it was also interesting to note that they were both concerned with the sound first and the gadgetry afterwards.

Neither liked the sound of Marantz, which they regarded

as thin and unclear. The Sony was a great improvement, but sounded bass heavy to both, a complaint that they also applied to the Trio and the Philips. With the Meridian, however, Nigel heard details of the Sting track which he hadn't noticed before, and Judit felt that the player projected the drum sound in a much more vital manner.

But the Technics received their undisputed approval for its balance between top and bottom sound ranges, its closer and fuller sound spectrum and its clarity.

It was Technics, again, which came out on top in the second test, the violin section from "Jig of Life" on Kate Bush's *Hounds of Love* CD. Although they agreed that the Meridian performance sounded clear.

On the Kate Bush track, however, Judit had kind words for the Philips player. Nigel's second choice was the Trio.

Nigel Kennedy: "It was the clarity that really struck me - it has much more depth, it makes listening to music much more of a three-dimensional experience"

Among the classical selections, Gidon Kremer's digital recording of Beethoven's Violin Concerto on Deutsche Grammophon, produced interestingly, rather different results. On both Philips and Trio, Kremer sounded "weird and distorted" according to Nigel, while the Sony was "easy to listen to". It was Meridian that emerged as the unanimous first choice for classical music. Nigel explained: "Its warmer sound is more like the acoustics of a concert hall, and it evenly balances the orchestral sections."

By the end of what proved to be a four-hour session, both Judit and Nigel opted for the Technics as the ideal all-round player. Any doubts were dispelled by its remote control facility and the price.

The final responses of both musicians were worth noting. "Though I still feel there is a lack of software, and I am not as knocked out by the sound as I thought I would be, I will have to go out and get a CD player," said Judit Tzuke.

Nigel Kennedy remarked: "It was the clarity that really struck me - it has much more depth, it makes listening to music much more of a three-dimensional experience."

HOW IT WORKS

Cutting all the crackle

Launched in the spring of 1983, the compact disc is the most important development in recorded sound since the audio cassette. From a slow beginning, the cassette now outsells the long-playing record and given another five years or so the compact disc could supersede both of them.

The Germans call them silver beer mats, which is not a bad description. The CD is a plastic and aluminium disc and it is, indeed, compact, measuring 4 1/2 inches across. It plays on one side only but gives up to 75 minutes of music, enough to encompass most symphonies.

So the most obvious advantage of CD over LP is in saving storage space, but that is only a small part of the story. The disc is played, or rather "read" by a laser. There is, therefore, no physical contact and the disc will never wear out through continued playing.

But the heart of the matter, in the words of an early advertising slogan, is "no snap, no crackle, no pop". Surface noise is all but eliminated, leaving the sound as clean as when it was first played in the concert hall or recording studio.

The technological difference between CD and conventional recording on LP or tape is summed up in the words digital and analogue. The traditional, analogue, system stores an "analogue" of the music in the grooves of the record or the magnetic fields of the tape.

Under the digital system used by CD, the information is quantified in the form of a number or set of numbers. Digital recordings can cover a range of sound corresponding to 90 decibels or better. Conventional analogue systems regularly achieve 60 to 70 decibels but are prone to noise and distortion. They are also subject to ageing, wear and dirt, whereas given reasonable handling, the compact disc should suffer none of these things.

Apart from its outstanding dynamic range, the advantage of the digital system is to bring in microprocessors which allow you to select the tracks you want, play them in the order you want, and, if required, to play the same track, or portion of track, a predetermined number of times.

Finally, the CD system is absurdly easy to work and free. Enclosed players, more like

cassette decks than record players, generate none of the fear of turntables with their delicate pick-up arms.

What can be said on the debit side? First, both the hardware (the players) and the software (the discs) are expensive compared with record players and LPs. The average CD player, despite the fact that prices have tumbled since the launch two and a half years ago, still starts at around £200. A good record player can be bought for half that.

As for the compact discs themselves, the average price is about £11, and the range is from £6.99 to £21.99. The range of prices for LP records is from £2.50 to £5.90, with the bulk of sales coming at the cheaper end. One factor keeping the compact discs expensive is that demand is greatly outstripping supply.

A second reservation about CD is that although the sound quality is generally superior, it may not be to every taste in every case. Ears have become used to analogue recordings, whatever their shortcomings, and some people find digital sound harsh and unnatural. Also, some works may be better suited to CD than others.

But there is no doubt that CD is taking off. In the nine months to the end of the launch year, 1983, 15,000 players were sold. Last year, as the merits of the system became more widely publicized and player prices tumbled, sales topped the 30,000 mark. This year's total is likely to be in excess of 100,000 units.

Over the next five years or so CD will be battling it out with cassette and LP. The market could become split into roughly three equal segments, with CD possibly becoming the dominant mode by the early 1990s.

Meanwhile CD will spread its wings. There will be more portable models and it will increasingly be used to provide music in cars. And it will be able to provide pictures as well as sound. With the aid of a clip-on screen, you will be able to call up appropriate images to accompany your opera or reproduce, from a single disc, the entire contents of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.



SATURDAY

Goon to the panto: Spike Milligan steals the show - p18

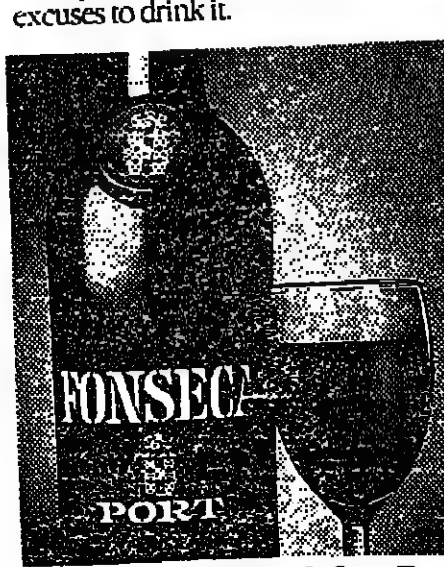
Arts Diary	18	Films	18
Bridge	13	Galleries	18
Chess	13	Gardening	15
Classics	13	Opera	17
Concerts	17	Review	15
Crossword	14	Shopping	15
Dance	18	TV & Radio	14
Drink	15	Theatre	14
Eating out	14	Travel	12, 13

No. 57 in an unending series of excuses to drink Fonseca Port.



"I am celebrating the new T-junction on the B4721 between Swangle and Poges"

The British have always loved port and need no excuse for drinking it in great quantity. If you like fine port, celebrate with Fonseca! Vintage, Old Tawny, or Bin 27 - soon you will be inventing your own excuses to drink it.



Fonseca. In a word, fine Port.

VICTORIA WINE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

LANSON
BLACK LABEL CHAMPAGNE
£9.49
"When you've tasted life"

DUNHILL
£1.15
20 Reg. Sm.

GLEN ROSSIE
WHISKY 40% Vol.
£6.59
Per 75cl bottle

THE VICTORIA WINE COMPANY

LOW TO MIDDLE TAR As defined by H.M. Government
DANGER: Government Health WARNING
CIGARETTES CAN SERIOUSLY DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH

	PRICE	CHIP SYSTEM	REMOTE CONTROL	PHONE SOCKET	MEMORY SIZE	SEARCH WITH SOUND	RUNNING TIME DISPLAY	DIRECT INDEX SEARCH
PHILIPS CD-150	£229	14x4	No	No	20	Yes	Yes	No
MARANTZ CD-65	£299	16x4	No	Yes	20	Yes	Yes	Yes
TECHNICS SL-P2	£399	16x1	Yes	Yes	15	Yes	Yes	Yes
TRIO DP 1100-11	£549	16x1	Yes	Yes	16	Yes	Yes	Yes
MERIDIAN MCD-Pro	£675	14x4	No	No	15	No	No	No
SONY CDP 552/702	£1,995	16x2	Yes	Yes	20	Yes	Yes	Yes

Players compared: Chip System means the decoding system by which players are described (no one system is better than any other). Memory size describes the number of tracks which can be pre-programmed; Direct Search can pick out part of a track

BUYING GUIDE
Compact disc players range in price from around £200 to £2,000. What accounts for this disparity? There are three main factors: quality of sound, quality of materials used in building the player and the number and type of special features.
● Quality of sound: This may be the least obvious to the layman. The difference between one player is certainly audible but very small, far less than, say, the difference between similar-priced loudspeakers or record players. Listening to several CD players, you might be hard pushed to say whether you were listening to a £200 model or one costing ten times as much. Certainly there is not a tenfold improvement; perhaps more like 10 per cent.
The quality of sound depends on the system used to produce it, which in turn comes down to the chips handling the "messages" which come out of the disc. Philips started with a 14-bit chip and Sony with a 16-bit, but since then each company has been leap-frogging the other. For the chip systems on our six representative players, chosen to illustrate the price range, see the table.
A second influence on sound quality is the audio components. For example, a £2,000 player is likely to have a better power supply and amplifier.
● Quality of materials: The cheaper players tend to make greater use of plastic, instead of metal, and have fewer components.
● Special features: Half a dozen of the most important are included in the table. Among them are remote control, headphone socket and various search facilities.

TRAVEL

Cut-price gateway to a Far East break

FAR DEALS

Two couples decided to take a seven night short break in Singapore. The first pair considered themselves more travellers than tourists, so they decided to do everything themselves. They knew about discounted air tickets and they also knew Singapore was suffering from a glut of hotel rooms.

Rather than fly 666 return for an APEX Advance Package Excursion fare with one of the main airlines, like Air Singapore, Air Canada, they stopped around and at a cheaper backpacker shop. They bought a ticket of £535 travelling via Sri Lanka via Colombo. After a long drive out to flight to Singapore they then faced the prospect of shopping around for a hotel room.

But at least the couple with a healthy discount of £50 a night, room only, (including service/tax) at a five star hotel. So their total for seven nights cost £1,420.

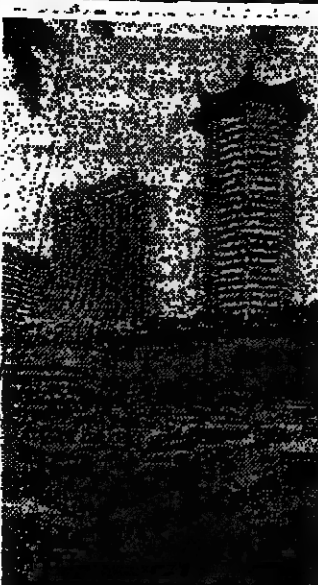
The second couple travelled the conventional way, with one of Singapore Airlines (SIA) Asian Airliner holiday. They paid less overall and easy came out on top. Not only did they fly

with one of SIA's non-stop flights (seven hours later than Air Lanka) but they stayed at an even better hotel - the well-known Mandarin along Orchard Road. And the cost? Just £675 each including full breakfast. So for a total of £1,350, not only did the second couple pay £154 less, they also sampled a superior product.

Don't think I'm knocking independent travel, far from it. Travelling independently is fine if you have complete flexibility but if you've decided on a specific destination and are sure of your travel dates, it makes sense to book a package - especially to the Far East.

Because keen offers on top airlines at top hotels, enable you to travel in style for the same price as the APEX fare alone. Unlike package deals to Europe you are not condemned to flying at inconvenient times.

And there's another advantage. Most airlines in the free-wheeling Far East have no time for IATA (the International Air Transport Association) and the antiquated fares structures so common in other parts of the world. So our operators are allowed to be creative.



A modern slant to high-rise Singapore

you can spend as little or as long as you want in each destination and you can arrive and depart on an "open jaw" basis, i.e. fly into Bangkok and depart Singapore. You can either book an operator's "off-the-peg" package or you can ask for a tailor-made deal - often only a little more expensive.

On a long-haul package your air fare will be the main cost component - the reverse of the situation for European holidays.

Which tour operator is best? It's an impossible question as over 60 different companies feature the Far East.

It's really a question of what you want to do. If you want to stay put in one destination and combine sightseeing with some shopping then consider Singapore or Hong Kong. For example in Hong Kong, P & O Air Holidays offer seven nights (twin share) for £661 in January at the first class Dec Gardens - £80 per person less than the APEX fare by itself. Or maybe it's your first trip to the East and you want to cover a selection of destinations at a budget price. In that case consider the well-trodden Hong Kong/Singapore/Bangkok circuit - 10 nights cost £830 from Kuwait. If you want a holiday away from the resorts, with some culture thrown in, then consider Speedbird's 14 nights package in Hong Kong and Tokyo for £1,130.

Experienced travellers heading for the more exotic parts of Malaysia, Thailand or Indonesia believe in making Singapore their gateway. Reliance Tours' Vacationland brochure allows you to acclimatize in the clean, green City State before setting out to explore other destinations.

China remains the only black spot. Bank on spending at least £1,400 for a 16-night China-only tour and up to £2,000 to include other destinations.

Alex McWhirter

Asian Affairs (01-439 2801)
P & O Air Holidays (01-247 1811)
Reliance Tours (01-439 2881)
Speedbird (01-741 8041)
Kuoni 3 (0306 886044)
The author is Travel Editor of Business Traveller.

CORSICA

What's different about Corsica?

The timelessness, or maybe the breathtaking scenery or possibly those unworldly golden beaches? After 10 years experience organising holidays in Corsica we've discovered the most charming locations and the best hotels. Why don't you discover the best.

COX & KINGS
The Corsica Specialists

Pan Am Fly/Drive. Everything Free Under The Sun.

Everything we can give away, we're giving away on an Am Fly/Drive holiday in Florida.

First, we'll give two adults on a holiday to Florida a free hotel voucher worth £281.

Then there's our bonus discount scheme: £25 off for each adult, £10 each child.

Car hire is from £25 a week, so two adults get the equivalent of two weeks' car hire free!

For good measure we'll also give you free drinks and headsets on the nonstop flight to and from Miami. And we've a special two-for-one duty-free offer.

Sounds too good to be true? Phone us for more details on: 01-409 0688 and we'll see you right across America.

PAN AM FLY/DRIVE

*Not 15th-31st Dec

SUPERB SKIING VALUE IN FRANCE	
WITH PETER STUYVESANT TRAVEL	
Dates	Resorts/Accommodation
	Bellegarde 4 sharing s/capt. Meribel Half board hotel
	7 days 4 days 7 days 14 days
Dec 14	£115 £195 £225 £405**
Dec 21	£170 £110* £405
Dec 28	£130* £155
Jan 4	£80* £195 £275* £535
Jan 11, 18	£135 £205 £335 £595
Jan 25	£135 £205 £340 £605

Flights from Gatwick and Manchester. Contact your local Travel Agent now or call 01-631 3278

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Messianic choirs and singing in the streets

A ring on the doorbell, the first two bars of "White shepherds watched their flocks by night" sung in a wobbly treble and a small outstretched hand... carol singers are about.

More expert renditions of the Christmas hymns are to be heard at the numerous carol services which will be taking place over the next 10 days in the great cathedrals and small parish churches throughout the country.

There are plenty of opportunities to join in, or to enjoy listening to performances of Handel's Messiah (St David's Hall, Cardiff, Royal Albert Hall, British Library, St Paul's Cathedral, Ripon Cathedral) or the "Bach Family Christmas" which includes the Magnificat (Church of St Anne and St Agnes, London EC2). Many churches will be celebrating

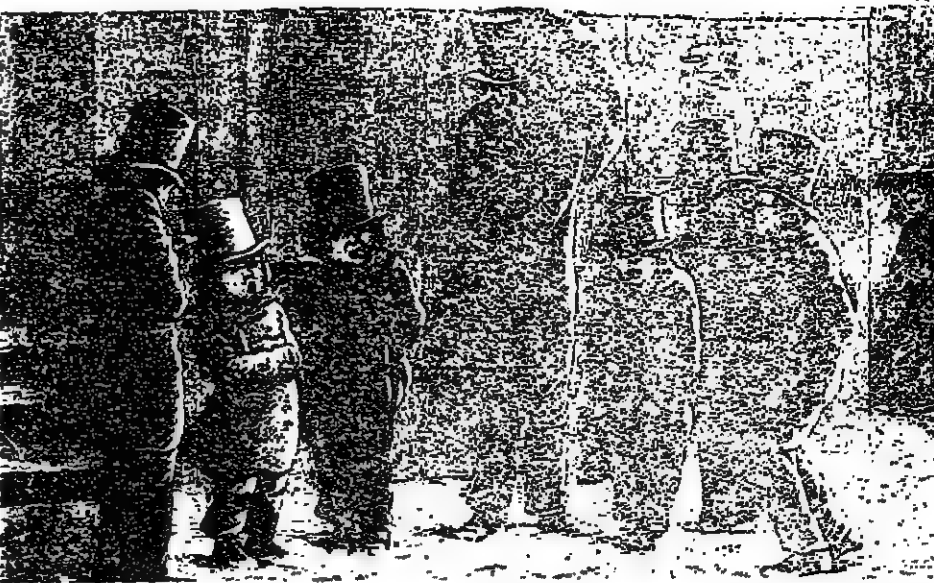
Seasonal festivities are getting under way all over Britain, with no sign of the old traditions dying

with the traditional Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols and the Blessing of the Crib. The city of Lincoln has a performance of the Messiah tonight and two carol services with bands and choirs tomorrow in the cathedral, and a German Christmas Market in Castle Square, there will be stalls, Punch and Judy shows, glühwein and wartschen to keep out the cold, street entertainers and a Father Christmas grotto.

Judy Froshang

The Norwich Cathedral Choir will be giving two performances of Christmas music, carols and readings at Blissing parish church, to be followed by mulled wine and mince pies at Blissing Hall - an impressive Jacobean house with splendid staterooms. These attending either programme may look over the Hall. Its 120ft Long Gallery contains 12,000 volumes of books.

Judy Froshang



English and French Carols, Dec 22, 7.30pm: Carols for choir and audience.

OUT OF TOWN

Bath Abbey, Dec 24, 7pm: Carol Service.
Birmingham, St Philip's Cathedral (Anglican), Carol services on Mon (12.30, 8.15pm and 7.45pm), Tues (1.10pm), Wed (7.15pm), Thurs (5.30 and 7.30pm), Dec 24, 5.30pm: Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.
Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral (Roman Catholic), Dec 22, 7pm: Carol service with music and readings, Dec 24, 11.15pm: Carols and Midnight Mass.
Blickling Hall, Aylsham, Norfolk, Today 4.30 and 7.30pm: Norwich Cathedral Choir in a programme of Christmas music and readings in the parish church, followed by refreshments at the Hall.
Bristol Cathedral (Anglican), Tues, Wed 7.30pm: Carols and Christmas music.
Canterbury, King's College, Chapel, Dec 24, 3pm: Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.
Admission by queuing from 8am. Further information from King's College (0223 350411).
Canterbury Cathedral, Dec 24,

3pm: Carol Service.
Cardiff, St David's Hall, Dec 22, 7.30pm: BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra and Chorus present Handel's Messiah.
Chester Cathedral, Mon, Tues, 7.30pm: Family Carols, with readings by David Kossoff.
Chichester Cathedral (Anglican), Dec 24, 5.30pm: Blessing of the Crib and Evensong, 11.30pm: Vigil of Music and Readings, plus Midnight Eucharist.
Coventry Cathedral, Today, 7.30pm: "Carols for All", with St Michael's Singers and Coventry Youth Orchestra, Dec 24: Carols at 4.30 and 7.30.
Derby Cathedral (Anglican), Dec 24, 6.30pm: Blessing of the Crib and Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.
Durham Cathedral (Anglican), Dec 22, 4.40pm: Lighting of the Tree and Blessing of the Crib, Dec 24, 3pm: Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, Dec 28, 7pm: Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.
Exeter Cathedral Church of St Peter, Tues, Wed, Thurs, 7.30pm: Carol Concerts by Exeter Musical Society.
Leicester Cathedral, Tomorrow,

2.45pm: Carol Concert by Leicester Bach Choir, Dec 24, 5.15pm: Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.
Lincoln Cathedral, Today, 7pm: Handel's Messiah by Lincoln Symphony Orchestra. Today and tomorrow, noon-8.30pm: German Christmas Market in Castle Square, with stalls and street entertainers.
Liverpool Cathedral (Anglican), Tomorrow, 3pm: Carol Service.
Liverpool, Dec 22, 3pm: Recital of Music by Cathedral Choir, Dec 22, 3pm: "Holly Bough" Carol Service.
Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral (Catholic), Dec 22, 5pm: Festival Carol Service.
Manchester Free Trade Hall, Dec 21, 7.30pm: Concert of music and carols by Hallé Orchestra. Also on Dec 22, 3pm and 7.30pm.
Newcastle Cathedral Church of St Nicholas, Dec 24, 4pm: Christmas Carol Service.
Peterborough Cathedral, (Anglican), Dec 21, 7.30pm: Peterborough Philharmonic Society Christmas Concert.
Ripon Cathedral, Dec 22, 4pm: Evensong, plus Britain's Ceremony of Carols by Ripon Cathedral

Choristers, Dec 24, 11.30am: Blessing of the Crib, 5.30pm: Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.
Salisbury Cathedral (Anglican), Dec 23, 7pm: Carol Service.
Sheffield Cathedral, Thurs, 7.30pm: Oratorio Chorus Carol Concert, Dec 24, 6.30pm: Evensong and Blessing of the Crib, 11pm: Carols in the Nave, Southwell Minster, Dec 24, 7pm: Music for Christmas Eve by Minster Choir.
Tnaro Cathedral, Dec 24, 7pm: Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.
Wakefield Cathedral (Anglican), Dec 22, 4pm: Cathedral Carol Service, Dec 24, 5pm: Evensong and Blessing of the Crib.
Wells Cathedral (Anglican), Dec 21, 7pm: Carol Concert, Dec 24, 6pm: Blessing of the Crib, Dec 28, 3pm: Cathedral Carol Service.
Worcester Cathedral, Dec 21, 7.30pm: Cathedral Carol Service, Dec 22, 4pm: Carol Service.
Winchester Cathedral, Dec 21 and 23, 6.30pm: Carol Service.
York Minster, Dec 22, 7pm: Carol Service, Dec 24, 4pm: Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

LONDON

Church of St Anne and St Agnes, Gresham Street, EC2 (Lutheran), Thurs, 7.30pm: Bach Family Christmas, including Bach Magnificat in "E" flat. Tickets £3.50 with refreshments.
Westminster Central Hall, Storey's Gate, SW1 (Methodist), Mon, 6.30pm: Christmas Service, Dec 21, 7pm: Carolade, Dec 22, 6.30pm: Night of Wonder - Tableaux and Music.
Royal Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7, Tomorrow 2.30pm: Bach Choir Family Carols, Wed, 7pm: Carols for Save the Children, attended by Princess Anne, Thurs, 7.30pm: The Messiah. Also carol concerts on Fri (7.30pm), Dec 21 (12.30 and 9.30pm), and Dec 22 (7.30pm). Telephone 01 589 8212 for tickets.
St Giles' Church, Cripplegate, Fore Street, EC2 (Anglican), Wed, 4pm: Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.
St John's, Smith Square, SW1, Tomorrow, 7.30pm: Carol Concert, Fri, 7.30pm: Concert of Italian Christmas Sings Music and

English and French Carols, Dec 22, 7.30pm: Carols for choir and audience.
St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square, WC2 (Anglican), Today, 7pm: St Martin's Baroque soloists perform Handel's Messiah, Dec 23, 6.30pm: Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.
St Paul's Cathedral, Ludgate Hill, EC4 (Anglican), Dec 21, 4pm: Congregational Carol Service, Dec 24, 4pm: Carol Service.
St Peter's Church, Easton Square, SW1 (Anglican), Mon, 6.30pm: Readings from Dickens, Dec 22, 6.30pm: Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.
Southwark Cathedral, Thurs, 12.45pm: Lunchtime carol singing, Dec 22, 3pm: Carol Service.
Trafalgar Square: Christmas carol singing around the tree most evenings from 5.30pm.
Wesley's Chapel, 49 City Road, EC1 (Methodist), Dec 22, 11am: Christmas Carol Service.
Westminster Abbey, Dec 24, 3pm: Choral Evensong, Dec 27, 4pm: Choral Service, broadcast also on Radio 3.

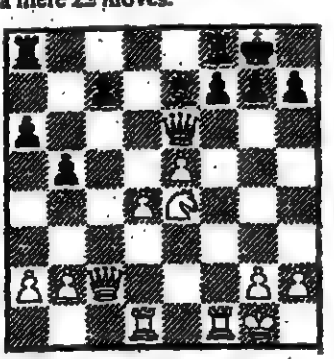
Anne Whitehouse

CHESS

The well-trodden road to ruin

It so often happens that a grandmaster is deluded into following a hazardous or downright inferior line, simply because it has become a popular highway of chess openings theory. When everyone is doing it there is a temptation to challenge one's own instincts and follow the trend, which can lead to unpleasant surprises.

A striking example occurred in a topical system of the well-known Ruy Lopez Opening. A game Zeshkovsky-Yusupov played at Erevan 1982, ended in disaster, with Black losing a piece and having to resign after a mere 22 moves.



In copying the main ideas of this popular line, but without being aware of the Erevan catastrophe, Grandmaster John Nunn lost exactly the same game to Murray Chandler in a recent tournament in Denmark.

From this position, both the Chandler-Nunn, Nimzowitsch Memorial 1985, and the earlier Yusupov-Mikhailisin, USSR Championship, 1981.

Black has made seven of his first 15 moves with his Queen. In addition, his King's side is neither developed nor capable of development. It looks rather as if a computer has been in charge of the Black pieces, not the mighty former world champion.

The result must be considered a surprise, because only Smolksi has made his mark on the tournament world at international level.

Even in a strong field, it is sometimes difficult to predict the result at the other table, East-West game, Dealer South.

Raymond Keene

BRIDGE

An element of surprise

The Lederer Memorial, limited to six strong invited teams, has always been one of the most popular fixtures in the calendar.

This year's tournament was held at the elegantly refurbished Young Chelsea Club in London last month. Warwick Pritch, the owner, acted as both host and sponsor.

The leading positions were: 1. Edwin Sampson, Smolksi, Selway 318 VPs; 2. Mesbur, Fitzgibbon, Senior, Walshe (Ireland) 300 VPs; 3. Dixon, Silverstone, Rose, Shenkin, Sheehan, Flint 267 VPs.

The result must be considered a surprise, because only Smolksi has made his mark on the tournament world at international level.

Even in a strong field, it is sometimes difficult to predict the result at the other table, East-West game, Dealer South.

W	N	E	S
1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4

wait for the ♠AQ. Declarer's play was based on the reasonable premise that East could well have four hearts because of my information, double. Plus 50 seemed to be a fair score, even if the 5-0 trump break would also defeat three diamonds.

This was the bidding in the other room:

W	N	E	S
1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4
1	2	3	4

Enjoyable until the smoke clears, leaving North-South with only three tricks and East-West with a 4-7 and 13 MPs.

Jeremy Flint

FARAWAY HOLIDAYS

In just one brochure, you'll find the sun-drenched, palm-fringed beaches of Mauritius and the Caribbean, with a choice of self-catering and luxury hotels.

And for families, Florida is the ideal vacation, with Disneyworld, the Space Centre and a choice of superb beach resorts. Phone 01-629 0999 and we'll send you a copy of our Faraway Holidays brochure or visit our Thomas Cook or Frames Travel branch.



Thomas Cook

By scheduled flights

For more details, ask your travel agent for our brochure or write to 158 New Bond St., London W1Y 0AY.

01-560 0981

Member of ABTA

GIB On Schedule with Service.

Now you can fly to Gibraltar by Air Europe scheduled services. Experience British service at its very best when you fly to the Rock. With Air Europe.

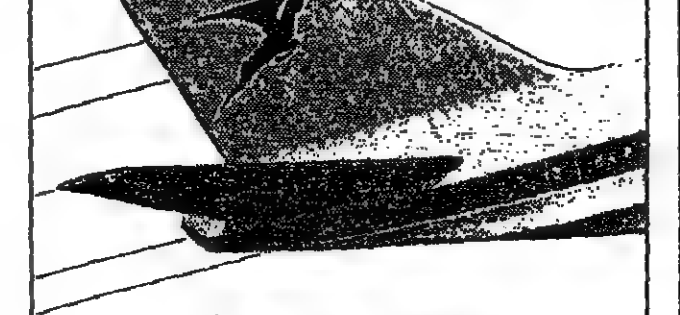
*Afternoon departures from London Gatwick *Each Mon, Fri & Sun. *Premier Business Class *Lowest economy fares from £89 *Free bar service

air europe

"The service was so professional that I felt if I had left my shoes outside the door they would have been cleaned."

TRAVEL EXPERT

Extract from just one of many wonderful letters received by us recently:



SAA SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS

we make the difference

The Magic of Martinique

Or Mustique, Guadeloupe, or other exotic islands. Experience the French Caribbean. The tantalising tropics combined with the best of France.

Sailing, fishing, windsurfing. Every water sport imaginable. With bars, restaurants and night-life that are as exciting as France itself.

For more details, ask your travel agent for our brochure or write to 158 New Bond St., London W1Y 0AY.

By scheduled flights

01-560 0981

Member of ABTA

SHOPPING

From tape measure to transformer, Beryl Downing has the answers to a family's seasonal prayers

All I want for Christmas

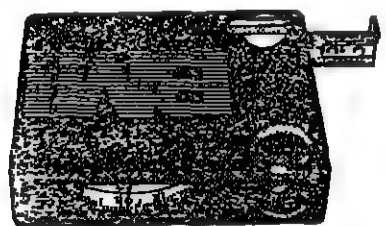
Family photograph by Sarah Karamia, gifts by Christine Milligan



Festive family - father in a red striped shirt with double cuffs in seven sleeve lengths, £29.50 by James Meade, with the BBC Bridge Companion; teenage daughter in black and white sweat shirt £25 by No Sweat, with polar bear and seal; grandmother in ivory silk shirt by Eximious £52.75, with hand painted Indian jewel box; nine-year-old boy in Marks and Spencer acrylic zig-zag sweater, grey, red and black £6.99, with which Robot transformer; Mother in embroidered fuchsia pink wool and angora sweater with black swirls embroidered with sequins £89 from Simpsons, with Trifari Honeycomb necklace £230 from Cobra & Bellamy and gold bag embossed with Picasso drawings from Zone at Harvey Nichols

Father

There are three golden rules about Christmas presents for men: no small leathergoods, no ties and no executive cameras. Gadgets, though, are something else, and everybody has coveted the 3-metre tape measure with built-in spirit level shown. It works horizontally and vertically and fits into corners. £8.25 (£2 p&p) from Oggetti.



Spirit level/tape, Oggetti

Wine lovers might care to adopt a vine in an English vineyard. Recipients have a vine named after them and may visit their protégé as often as they like, pick their own grapes and receive a bottle with a personalized label. All for £10 from St George's Vineyard.

For beginners or advanced players, the new BBC Bridge Companion has enormous potential. You plug it into a television aerial socket (no video required) using a spare channel. Insert the accompanying cartridge into the control deck and you can learn to count, bid, and play as pictures of trial hands appear on the screen.

For more advanced players there are two extra cartridges for Club Play and Master Play. We found the best one for beginners was the Companion £189.95 at Harrods or the W. H. Smith computer shop at Waterloo station.



Pocket Text Tell, Harrods

Another amazing new gadget is the Text Tell PX1000 - a pocket text machine weighing only 1lb and neat enough to slip into a pocket. You can transmit messages to another PX 1000 from anywhere in the world. Or, by becoming a subscriber to Connex (£51.75 registration fee and £28.75 a quarter), you are linked to a complete electronic system.

Just type in your message, place the unit over the mouthpiece of a telephone and it transmits as much as five pages of A4 text in 1 minute 30 seconds - a great saving on a long-distance telephone call. The machine itself costs £569 and there is a small, neat printer at £184 which locks into it. All details from G & B International.

Daughter

For any teenage girl you can hardly go wrong with records by Duran Duran. What! were at number one, so she is bound to have "I'm Your Man" already.

Wide shoulders, Dynasty-style, are all the rage and at Harvey Nichols' Zone department in the basement you'll find tubs of hook-on shoulder pads. No sewing needed. One scoop (thinner) costs £10.95 and two scoops for a really padded look, £12.95.

An original sweat shirt would be a guaranteed success, too. At No Sweat you can have almost anything you like designed specially for you for £40 to £45, or there is a ready-made selection at £20 to £30. The black and white one in the picture is £25.



Alwa radio headphones

The Alwa headphones with integral radio in the earpiece, £29.95 from branches of Dixons, can't fail to please. The new Partymime charade game will make the family feel like Give Us a Clue television stars. There are boxes of mime cards and when you roll a die, the actors have to perform the charade on the corresponding card. £24.99 W. H. Smith.



Puss in Boots

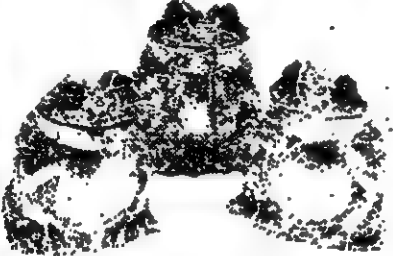
Furry toys are popular with any age group - the polar bear illustrated is £50 from Liberty and the seal from the General Store, £18.50 (£1.55 p&p). Puss in Boots keeps in shape £4.99 (90p p&p) Peter Knight.

Grandmother

For grannies who have everything the aim is to avoid specialist gift shops that seem to sell nothing without ornate knobs. Look instead for hand-crafted work of some style.

Joss Graham, Eccleston Street has a superb collection of Oriental textiles and is particularly enthusiastic about wood - deeply patinated bowls from £10-£85 and chapati boards (perfect for cheese), £25, hand-painted jewel boxes.

The one shown is beautifully hand-painted in traditional style by the descendants of the craftsmen in Rajasthan who first made them in the 17th century. Small ones cost £48, larger ones £120.

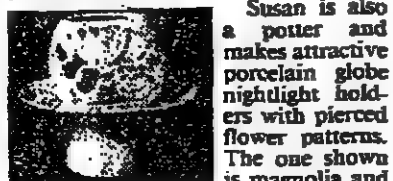


Silver frogs, Garrard

If she is the type to fancy something different to the usual, the Avia watch, Garrard at 112 Regent Street, London W1 have a trio of amber-eyed silver frogs for salt, pepper and mustard, £99.

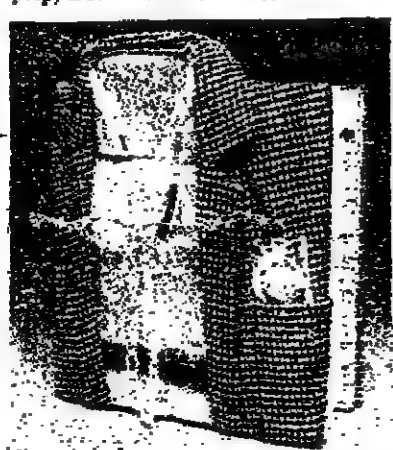
Gardening is often a granny passion, so she would probably approve of a maximum-minimum thermometer that works efficiently. Chave & Jackson do one for £6.50 (50p p&p) which is much better than the ones you usually find in garden centres.

Or an antique chimney pot planted with trailing geraniums could find a home on a terrace. Susan Bennett and Earl Hyde have a collection which includes plain or salt glazed ones at £20 to £65 and decorative ones for indoor use, painted and gilded to suit your decor from £95.



Night light globe

Susan is also a potter and makes attractive porcelain globe nightlight holders with pierced flower patterns. The one shown is magnolia and costs £17.50. For compulsive diarists, Carol Warner is publishing The Journal, beautifully bound in gold-tooled blue stuff that looks like suede. It has lots of blank undated pages for indiscreet revelations and there are drawings and excerpts from the letters and journals of 12 women writers, including Jane Austen, Dorothy Wordsworth and Mary Wollstonecraft. £7.50 (£1.20 p&p) from the Lenox Press.



Dressy address book

As a witty extra, add an Ad-dress book - the cover made of fabric and fashioned like a dogstooth jacket with pearls and spec on a chain. There is a tweed jacketed one for men, too. £13.95 each (95p p&p) Peter Knight.

Son

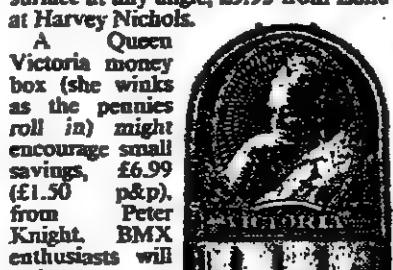
No nine-year-old can be seen this Christmas without a transformer - the robot that transforms on impact into other shapes. The one every child wants is the Godaikin (£30), but if you can't find it (many toy shops are sold out) try the Robot Winch shown, which turns into a helicopter, £29.95 from Hamleys.



Underwater watch

The other buzz present is the underwater watch. The Avia Turbo has a grey dial and strap with red and blue markings. It is shock resistant and water resistant to 100 feet. £29.95 from Zales.

For boys who like construction kits, there is a new one called Tacfic which has over 160 components. The tubes, joints and wheels lock together to make all sorts of structures - ships, helicopters, goal posts, trucks. The kits come in various sizes; Hamleys, Birmingham, have the Mobile kit, £59.99.



Queen victoria money box

Boys are not usually over-impressed with pens, but the exception is the Fisher Space pen, a chrome bullet shape used by Neil Armstrong on the first Apollo mission. It writes on any surface at any angle, £9.95 from Zone at Harvey Nichols.

A Queen Victoria money box (she wins as the pennies roll in) might encourage small savings, £6.99 (£1.50 p&p), from Peter Knight. BMX enthusiasts will welcome a helmet in black and white with stripes and BMX stickers, £22.50, at the London Bicycle Co.



Stencil escape kit

Stencil escape will give artistic boys lots of scope. It is a range of stencilling kits and accessories and there are more than 100 designs for making your own wrapping paper, greetings cards, wallpaper borders and guest towels. From £9.99.

Young conservationists might like to adopt a real animal. A chipmunk costs £30 to keep for one year, or you could have a share in a giant panda for the same price. A panda to yourself would cost £4,000 a year. Details, National Federation of Zoos.

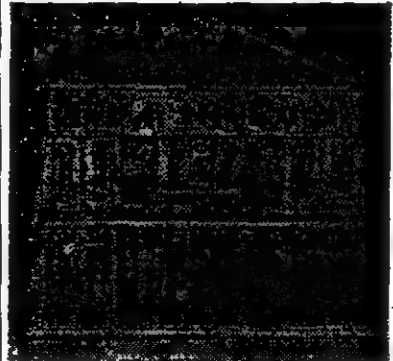
Mother

A modern mother with a responsible job has too little time to pamper herself, so anything glamorous will make her feel appreciated. Harvey Nichols' Zone department is meant for the young, but it has plenty of glitter for all ages.

The gold leather bag illustrated is embossed with Picasso-style drawings, £35, and there is a plain gold belt to go with it, £23.95. Or choose a Louis Feraud silk nightdress, £115, from Simpsons of Piccadilly or a black lace bodysuit at £29.50 from Harrods - providing the has-been doing the Jane Fonda exercises.

No one can have too many silk shirts and Valbridge have one of the largest selections. Their new collection includes some in fine stripes on glowing emerald, ruby or sapphire crepe de chine, £66 to £70.

To go with the shirts, there is a new idea this year: V-shaped gold or silver plated shirt collar corners, which give a very elegant finish - removable for washing and just as smart on a man's city shirt, £5.98 (25p p & p) Peter Knight.



Venetian leather rack

There is a charming new collection of stationery accessories made by that flavour-of-the-month pair David Linley and Matthew Rice. Called the Venetian Range it includes a letter rack £14.95, pencil holder £10.95, memo pad £6.95, picture frame £11.75 and blotter £14.95, all painted with a fluid water colour effect on stiff card in subtle shades of vellum and mushroom, pink and grey. From the National Trust shops at Abbey Churchyard, Bath and The Blewcoat School, 23 Caxton Street, London SW1. Also at Harrods.



Brass necklace from Ghana

When you are in Joss Graham's shop choosing something for grandmother, take a look too at the magnificent tribal jewellery. He has a cascade of silver necklaces and belts, amber and cornelian bracelets and earrings, some made by a young jeweller, Rudra Gahl, from antique stones and some original antique pieces brought back from India and Ghana. Prices are from £10 to £300.

For those with toddlers in the family, Little Bo-Peep Nursery Rhymes would be a useful bed-time stand-by. It has many favourite nursery rhymes charmingly illustrated with silhouette pictures cut out by Dorit Christiansen and printed on satisfyingly thick paper. It is a limited edition by Malvern Press, £12.95 from Hatchards.

EATING OUT

Great escapes from the crazed crowds

Stan Hey reports on places that refresh the weary present-seeker

If I remember, had a cartoon magazine I'm sure it would show drawings of humans doing the Christmas shopping. The bizarre annual ritual of battling to buy goods that will be cheaper in a month's time, the suicidal leaps from the pavement to flag down a taxi, and the crazed jostling of fellow humans in what is laughably known as the season of goodwill, suggest to me that the lemmings have an integrity of purpose which we may not possess.

The fact that most people will fuel up during these assaults at the "Golden Spud" or "The Jolly Microwave" seems a further eccentricity. There are, however, many restaurants offering shoppers more than the equivalent of a plate of half-time crumpets.

Babbler Wine Bar and Bistro is just off the Marble Arch end of Oxford Street, a snowball's throw from Selfridges. Those who happen to stumble off the beaten track to be lured into Babbler are in for a treat. A cosy, wooden-floored wine bar sits above a pretty and pleasantly isolated basement bistro.

The wine bar sprawls over three areas (closely-packed tables at the front, stools and bar in the middle, and a raised lounge at the rear) with separate counters for wine and food service. A good selection of salads and cheeses is backed up by several appetizing hot dishes such as seafood, mousses, veal casserole and lamb risotto, at around £3 each.

I tried the bistro's Saturday shoppers' lunch, which offers a chance to escape the crowds and a two-course meal with coffee at £7.95. Several choices are offered, and their freshness is endorsed by the presence of two chefs working hard at an open range in one corner.

Starters of cream of parsley soup and parsnip and vegetable strips, with a mornay sauce provided ideal restoratives after a cold morning, avoiding the shops. Main courses may not seem too substantial in relation to the price, but the chicken (pancetta filled with cheese and ham) and an Alsatian onion tart with sauté potatoes and salad were both expertly done and provided an ideal balance between nourishment and lightness.

At this stage, you are supposed to return to the fray in the streets above, but for an additional £2 you can enjoy such sweets as chocolate and Grand Marnier mousses, and as the coffee is plentiful the wine

list long and handsome, and the patroness - pretty and good-humoured, the dining streets will seem a lot less appealing.

One way to escape the concentrated madness of the West End is to shop in the suburbs where no hysteria is slightly more self-contained. Ealing offers a new shopping mall and a good selection of pleasant restaurants. Gino's, at the junction of The Mall and Ealing Broadway, is a cheerful and welcoming Italian restaurant, with a above average range of pastas, excellent trout and veal, and a fisher than usual sash tray. Gino's also has a convenient pizza and pizza operation across the road.

Back in town, if you find yourself willing in Kensington High Street, remember the old Carole, King, song by The Drifters and escape "Up On The Roof", the restaurant at the top of the old Derry and Toms building.

Hysteria is more self-contained in the suburbs

Up in the Gardens restaurant, where art deco interior is peculiarly apt around Christmas, you can enjoy an hour of quiet gazing out onto the roof gardens, all a reasonable value, modern French set lunch, with two courses at £10.50, three at £12.50, and a Christmas dinner at £15.95. If you stray off to the main hall, the bill may be augmented by turning out the lamplight in you and six floors up at the chandelier.

If you are in Liverpool, the main shopping thoroughfare is Church Street. It has long since been pedestrianized, although hazards remain - last week it was a town in a trenchcoat and trilly plighting through Christmas cards on an open and drum machine. Again, a hearty breakfast may provide the best refuge.

La Grande Bouffe is easily on the edge of the shopping area, and its atmospheric hours offer a range of excellent food, including warm salad (chicken liver) with pasticcini (stuffed), sautéed parsnips and a good value set lunch of three courses for £6.50.

FOOD NOTES

Babbler Wine Bar and Bistro, 41 North Audley Street, London W1 (01-491 3257). Open Mon-Fri 11am-11pm, Sat 11am-11pm, Sun 12pm-11pm. Gino's, 100 Ealing Broadway, London W5 (01-667 9681). Open Mon-Fri 12.30-2.30pm, Mon-Sat 11.15pm. The Gardens Restaurant, 100 Kensington High Street, London W8 (01-877 7994). Open: Mon-Fri and Sat 12.30-3pm. La Grande Bouffe, 48 Castle Street, Liverpool L2 (05236 3376). Open: Mon-Fri noon-9pm, Tues-Sat 8-10pm.

AUCTIONS

BUY BRITISH: Two continents and three countries come together in a view of a Swiss town by the Englishman John Glover, painted in Tasmania in the 1830s. Among the indubitably British works is a portrait of a lady by the currently fashionable Joseph Wright of Derby. There are also many marriage and sporting pictures. Phillips, 7 Blenheim Street, London W1. Viewing today 9am-noon, Mon 9am-6pm, Tues 9-10am. Sale Tues, 11am.

WINE, a poem by James Fard and George Wright, who began life as a surgeon. Sotheby's, 34-35 New Bond Street, London W1 (01-493 0800). Viewing Mon-Tues, 9am-4.30pm. Sale Wed, 10.30am.

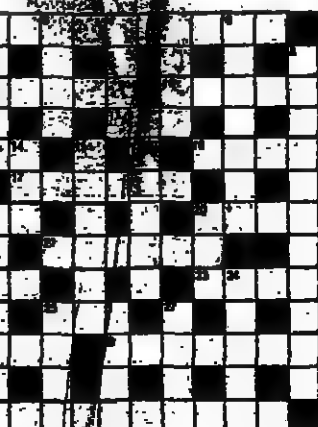
HOLY WRIT: Every tip of the Holy Land of any importance made between 1500 and 1948, together with prints and books, is on offer because the collector Yakov Aviel has been unable to establish a cartographical museum in Israel. Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-581 7631). Viewing Mon-Wed 9am-4.30pm. Sale Thurs, 10.30am.

John Mallalieu

CONCISE CROSSWORD (826)

Prizes of the New Collins Crossword will be awarded to the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, December 19, 1985. Entries should be addressed to The Times Crossword, 12 Cockspur Street, London W1. The winners and prizes will be announced on Saturday, December 21, 1985.

- ACROSS
- Artery, vein (5,6)
 - Amless mover (7)
 - Russian spirit (5)
 - Floury insect (6)
 - Scolds constantly (6)
 - Rum (4)
 - Do service (6)
 - 30s, 15s day (7)
 - Feast day (4)
 - Mainz car (6)
 - Worshipped image (4)
 - Quite hot (4)
 - Ardent desire (3)
 - Combine (5)
 - Command level (7)
 - Chesterton's priest (4,5)



- DOWN
- Fibbing (5)
 - Curve (4)
 - Acid ward (4)
 - Rescue (4)
 - Sanction (7)
 - Endlessly (7,9)
 - DDR (4,7)
 - Nervosity (6)
 - Distress signal (1,11)
 - Claims (6)
 - 7 Unkempt, 13 For 15 Another 16 Elf
 - 27 Coffees 18 Exhaust 28 Ovens 21 Giddy
 - 23 Laze
 - 24 Let (5)
 - 25 Yes (4)
 - 26 Close (4)
 - 27 Scorch (4)

SOLUTION TO 825

ACROSS: 1 Agatha 2 Gypsum 3 Pies 9 Jaguar 10 Lucky 11 Yeh 12 Fast time 14 Bishes 15 Create 16 Sash 17 God 22 Hold 24 Shrewd 25 Crump 26 DRR 27 Bussy 28 Sings

DOWN: 2 Grade 3 Mould 4 Apricot 5 Gates 6 Point 7 Unkempt 13 For 15 Another 16 Elf 17 Coffees 18 Exhaust 28 Ovens 21 Giddy 23 Laze

The winners of prize concise No 826 are: M. Faggaly, Abchurch, Weymouth, Dorset; and Miss E. Staggie, Murrells, Gwent, Walsley, Monmouth.

SOLUTION TO No 826 (last Saturday's concise)

ACROSS: 1 Coprocessor 9 Overton 10 Chiao 11 Doh 13 Ores 16 Gey 17 Elated 18 Grow 20 Ante 21 Willow 22 Nook 23 Lash 25 Man 28 Nerve 29 Original 30 Appointment

DOWN: 2 Ome 3 Nail 4 Sand 5 Bitch 6 Grogginess 7 Polynesian 8 Polytechnic 12 Openly 14 New 15 Breeze 19 Breeze 20 Awi 24 Again 25 Meats 26 Nook 27 Polla 28 Breeze 29 Breeze

Name _____

Address _____

The Times Christmas Prize Jumbo Crossword will be published next Saturday

PRESENT ADDRESS BOOK

Susan Bennett & Earl Hyde, 5 St Regis Close, London N10 (01-883 8540). Chave & Jackson, 6/7 Broad Street, Harford (0432 272122). Cobra & Bellamy, 149 Sloane Street, London SW1 (01-730 2823). G & B International, 144 Peckham Rye, London SE22 (01-693 0319). The General Store, 111 Longacre, London WC2 (01-240 0331); also at 20 Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (01-734 1888). Joss Graham Oriental Textiles, 10 Eccleston Street, London SW1 (01-730 4370). Halcyon Days, 14 Brook Street, London W1 (01-629 8811). Hamleys, 188 Regent Street, London W1 (01-734 3161). Peter Knight, London End, Beaconsfield, Bucks (0494 55514). 5 High Street, Esher, Surrey (78 64122) and at East Molesey and Dorking. Richard Kild, Antique and modern wine accessories, 184 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 (01-585 3638). Lenox Press, 27 Green Park, Bath (0225 337237).

The London Bicycle Co, 41 Floral Street, London WC2 (01-838 2969); and 53 Fimlico Road, London SW1 (01-730 8686). James Meade Shirts, 302-304 Barrington Road, London SW9 (01-274 3100). National Federation of Zoos, Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, London NW1 (01-588 0230). Oggetti, 133 Fulham Road, London SW3 (01-581 8889); and 100 Jermyn Street, London W1 (01-930 4684). St George's English Wines, Waldron Vineyard, Waldron, Heathfield, East Sussex (043 53 2156). Simpsons, Piccadilly, London, W1 (01-734 2002). The Sleeping Company, 123 Fulham Road, London SW3 (01-581 2038). Stencil Ease, from The Wheatheat, 54 Baker Street, London W1 and 76 Neal Street, London WC2. Valbridge, 60 Beauchamp Place, London SW1 (01-589 7939). Lela Veleto, 87 Devonshire Road, Chelsea, London W4 (01-353 7993). Zone at Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1 (01-235 5000).

IN THE GARDEN

Get to the roots of a dangerous problem

Trees can make your garden. Unfortunately, if things go wrong, they can also break the bank, landing you with hefty bills for repairs to your house or for costly legal battles with your neighbours. The potential problem lies in the roots.

The trouble starts when they grow through cracks in the cement. They soon expand, making the cracks bigger. They can also grow under the foundations, lifting them.

The distance between the tree and the building is very important. There is no absolute rule but a report some years ago suggested that trees should be at least 70 feet away. The rule I use is to assess the spread the tree is likely to grow to and plant it at that distance. If the tree is 30 or 40 feet in the crown, the root system is likely to be equally big.

A reader has written to ask whether a birch tree growing within 10 feet of his house is likely to cause the foundations to "heave". I suggest he dig to see whether the roots touch the foundations at any point.

The genera and species of the trees should also be taken into account. The poplar has the worst reputation. It has a well developed root system which will travel a long way to find



Potential hazard: poplars

assistance. However, any quick-growing tree, such as the willow and the elm, should be viewed with suspicion.

Trees growing in the type of clay which shrinks as it dries are most likely to cause trouble. Loams and sandy soils are better able to cope with the withdrawal of water by roots. The lighter the soil, the more deeply roots will grow in search of water. This reduces the threat to building foundations.

The combination of a shrink clay and a Lombardy poplar anywhere near an old building is a recipe for disaster.

The wise gardener will take out insurance if he has trees which he thinks might cause damage to his own or his neighbour's house.

Ashley Stephenson

QUESTION TIME

Pansy plants which seem to be in good condition suddenly die. The leaves become limp, the plants wilt and die: just above ground level. What has happened?

There are two possible causes, the most likely is soil pests. Wireworms, leatherjackets and so on can cause a lot of damage by eating the plant through at or just below ground level; these pests are more common if fresh leaf mould has been added, or if the beds were previously lawn. Apply a soil pesticide such as Bromophos or Root Guard. The other cause may be Pansy Sickness, which may result from a number of diseases. Ideally, move the pansies to another part of the garden as the ground may not be right for them. Water young plants and seedlings with Cheshunt Compound and water or dust established plants with Calomel. An inspection of the plant at the point it has been severed will indicate whether the trouble is caused by a pest or a disease.

Can Coco-bean shells be used as a soil additive? Do they have any nutritional or physical value and are there other uses for them?

I assume this refers to the husks of coffee beans, or Coffea arabica. Yes, the shells can be added to the soil, but I would recommend them to be crushed into small pieces. Use in much the same way as pulverized bark: they are best as a mulch.

Check your maintenance: the compost and the pruning. Prune during the dormant season and be quite ruthless. Remove all the shoots which are growing straight up from the centre of the bush; to give the plant an open centre. Select a system of laterals to form a framework and cut them back to about an inch from the main stem. Prune each year, repeating the same process. If the soil is still rich, add peat or bark round the bush purely as a mulch; do not add further feeds until it is apparent that the plant needs it.

Readers with queries about gardening should write to Ashley Stephenson at The Times, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1.

THE INCREDIBLE SEED CATALOGUE

Major gardeners reference book of plants in full colour 212 pages, 1000 illustrations, over 300 varieties. Fully informative when used: how to plant, raise, cultivate and harvest. Quantity available strictly limited. Send your FREE copy, posted now. Write now. Thompson & Morgan, Dept B3, London Road, Wokingham RG40 3DB. Tel 0434 623333/623334



"OR THEN MISS, BADEN WINE ALL ROUND, AND WE'LL DO A HEAVY METAL NUMBER."

ENJOY A SELECTION OF SLIGHTLY DRIER, CRISP WINE WITH A SUBTLE YET FULLER FLAVOUR. ESTATE BOTTLED BY THE CO-OPERATIVE OF SOUTHERN GERMANY'S PREMIER GROWERS.

AVAILABLE FROM SELECTED BRANCHES OF Sainsbury's, Waitrose, Marks & Spencer, Odeon, Gough Brothers, Treshers, Victoria Wine, Boots, Julian Flock, House of Townend and other fine wine merchants.

Baden

SLIGHTLY DRIER

THE SEAL OF QUALITY WINES FROM BADEN

THE BADEN WINE CO. LTD. LEVENHOPE, WILMSTON, WILMSTON, WILMSTON

TELEPHONE 09001 21511 TELEX 337889

Classical records

REVIEW

Critical acclaim for the classics of '85

What are the year's best new discs? Our five regular reviewers make their choice

JOHN HIGGINS

The most enjoyable opera performance of the year, both on stage at La Scala, Milan and on record courtesy Deutsche Grammophon, has to be Il Viaggio a Reims (DG 415 498-2 three CDs). There were some minor changes between Pesaro, Rossini's birthplace and the town in which this recording was made, and Milan, but it is many years since such a roster of Italian singers was assembled for a comic opera, plus Samuel Ramey, the Rossini bass of our time. And it will probably be many years before a comparable company comes together again. Then there is Abbado, whom there is no better Rossini conductor.

Yes, Rossini reworked many of the numbers for Le Conte d'Ory. Yes, the plot is non-existent. But such complaints are as nothing when confronted with this score full of jokes, high spirits and glorious melodies. Sinopoli gave us Rigoletto

(Philips 412 592-2, two CDs), a recording which is reborn into the darker corners of Verdi's opera which all too often is treated superficially. Neil Schicoff, who has not often shown himself on top form in London, here displayed his tenor to best effect as the Duke. Gruberova was a predictably brilliant Gilda and Bruson brooded darkly in the title role. Philips' engineers produced the best operatic sound of the year.

And, on the sound front, no reissue was more welcome than EMI's Tosca (CDs 747 178, two CDs). Infinite words of praise have been spent on the vocal trio of Callas, De Stefano and Gobbi plus the conductor, de Sabata, and quite rightly, it is the version of Tosca we should all have on our shelves. EMI's archives are full of marvellous material which I hope their engineers are busy transferring to CD.

A selection of three Italian operas? Well, it was that sort of year.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

This was the year the compact disc brought you the compact Ring, and nothing else in 1985 has enticed the recordings made at Bayreuth only 18 years ago, although sounding as if from a different world as played by Nilsson and Windgassen. Kyzanek and King, Theo Adam and most notably Karl Böhm: Das Rheingold (Philips 412 475-2), Die Walküre (412 475-2), Siegfried (412 483-2), Gotterdammerung (412 488-2).

Other discoveries of the year have included two dissimilar piano discs: Alfred Brendel finding every encouragement for his wit and sense of character in three sonatas and other pieces by Haydn (Philips 412 228-2).

CD), and Peter Hill offering a quite extraordinarily beautiful and right reading of Messiaen's Preludes as the start of a complete cycle of his piano music (Unicorn-Kanchana DPK 9037, black disc).

Then there is the Hilliard Ensemble opening one's ears and mind to the 15th century and to the remarkable intimate glories of Ockeghem's Requiem and Missa Mi-Mi (EMI Reflexe EL 27 0098 1, LP). And the Christmas special has to be the William Byrd Choir's reconstruction of a Mass of St Sylvester as it might have been sung on 31 December 1613, with the ringing huge bathroom acoustic of the Sistine Chapel. (BBC Artium REG 572, black disc).



Sounds wonderful: (from left) Fischer-Dieskau, Brendel, Callas, Haitink

HILARY FINCH

Argo's boxed set of Sibelius's songs (Argo 411 739-1, five black discs) tops my list. The 10 sides of five, engaging performances range from the comforting familiarity of "Svarta roset" to rarities like the Finnish "Kallio" and the guitar-accompanied Shakespeare songs.

Of all the sixtieth birthday tributes to Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau, EMI's three boxed sets together represent the finest monument of these, the Lieder collection is the most revealing (EMI 29 0429 3, three black discs). Periods of his life are matched most astutely to composer and accompanist: Sawallisch for Mendelssohn,

Moore for Schubert and Wolf, Reimann for Nietzsche and Webern.

Only a singer with Fischer-Dieskau's assimilation of the German song tradition could bring such richness of insight to the world premiere recording of Berg's Jugendlieder (EMI 27 0193, black disc). These vociferous settings by Berg the young auto-didact—make thought-provoking listening.

Finally, one record always gets a prize for making some over-recorded work seem richer and more necessary than it did before. Marek Janowski and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra do it for Brahms's Fourth Symphony (ASV DCA 533, black disc), buoyant, this performance catches fire anew.

STEPHEN PETTITT

Three releases spring immediately to mind. Handel's Esther states its considerable case in Christopher Hogwood's effervescent and moving realization of the first, short version of 1718 (Decca L'Oiseau-Lyre Florilegium 414 423-1 OH2, two black discs).

Another "early music" choice has to be Andrew Parrott's intelligently conceived recording of Monteverdi's L'espers, characterized by clarity, brilliance and a real sense of devotion (EMI Reflexe EX 270129-3, LP). A magnificent opera recording on CD completes my list: Sir Georg Solti's account of that masterpiece of dichotomy, Moses and Aaron (Decca 414 264-2 DH2).

RICHARD MORRISON

My favourite recording of 1985 has only just appeared: John Eliot Gardiner's entirely persuasive account of Bach's Mass in B minor (DG Archive, 415 514-1, two black discs), recorded interpretations of this work have veered to extremes in recent years, compare Jochum's treadmill with Rikkin's whirling, for instance. While Gardiner is in no sense a "compromise" candidate, he does seem to take the most sensible option every time, and the Monteverdi Choir's alert singing perfectly matches the English Baroque Soloists' spruce original-instrument textures.

I heard an early "test pressing" of Andrew Parrott's fascinating liturgical reconstruction of Monteverdi's 1610 Vespers, and was entranced by the translucent textures (helped by Parrott's designation of many choral sections to solo voices) and the dancing, vigorous approach. Then the finished product arrived (FMI Reflexe, EX 270129-3, two black discs) complete with a sleeve note plunging us into wearisome academic controversies. But you don't have to read sleeve notes. Buy it for the stylish music-making.

Last year, Schubert's symphonies were served up with revelatory clarity by Martiner and the Academy of St Martin in the Fields. New Haitink and the Concertgebouw Orchestra have done the same for Schumann's symphonies (Philips, 412 852-1, three black discs). They are reputed to be problematic works for a conductor to balance, yet Haitink makes the orchestration sound completely convincing and also offers some uncharacteristically headstrong (some might say willful) interpretative ideas. Challenging stuff. If you opt for black rather than compact discs you acquire Schumann's lively overtures into the bargain.

DRINK

The spirits of Christmas to come

Supermarkets are good hunting ground for a drop of the hard stuff, writes Jane MacQuitty



the tasting all suffered from cheap, oily, ersatz characters. The whisky tasting placed several well-known brands among the supermarket offerings — and once again many supermarket labels proved superior. Blended whiskies have a higher proportion of malts in their mix. Certainly ASDA's Scotch whisky had a touch of that Islay smokiness about it even if it had a rather fiery finish.

Everyone tends to watch their alcohol intake these days — and not just because of the possibility of running into the law on the way home. Most of us try to refrain from over-indulgence in order to avoid what the French so aptly call a *crise de foie* — a liverish attack.

Perhaps the ideal solution for festive imbibers is to drink fewer but better spirits. Tipples may feel that there is no great difference between one gin or whisky and the next but blind tastings have proved that there can be as much variety between them as there is between wines.

I attended a series of blind spirit tastings earlier this year and was amazed to discover at

ings — and once again many supermarket labels proved superior. Blended whiskies have a higher proportion of malts in their mix. Certainly ASDA's Scotch whisky had a touch of that Islay smokiness about it even if it had a rather fiery finish.

The stars of this blind tasting were two wonderful blended whiskies from the Co-op. The first, Heatherdale, had an impressive light, fruity, peat-reek smell backed up by a rich smoky palate. Majority, the other, was a richer, fruitier blend.

After the blended whiskies, there was a small selection of supermarket malt whiskies — again put up against the most popular branded malts such as Glenfiddich and Glenlivet, both of which I found particularly bland and disappointing. Tesco's Pure Malt fared well in this

line-up with its excellent, rich, warm, smoky-iodine smell and taste that is typical of a good Islay malt. Safeway's Highland Malt was just half a point behind in my tasting notes; its unusual, flowery, smoky smell and soft, smoky palate reminded me a little of Talisker from the Isle of Skye.

Brandy, including cognac, was the only category of spirits where the big brands triumphed over those of the supermarket labels. This was probably because, with one exception, cognac was compared not with own-label cognac but with cheaper, less distinguished, own-label French grape brandy.

Given such humble competition, Martell Three Star romped home the winner with its lovely rich, warm, velvety flowery taste that is definitely

too good to set alight on the plum pudding. Next came Hennessy's VS, equivalent to a three star cognac. I enjoyed its rich, traditional prune-like cognac style. By comparison the nearest supermarket offering, Sainsbury's Grande Fine Cognac, appeared somewhat raisiny, spirit and young even if it had some vanilla-like charm on the palate.

High strength tipping therefore need not cost the earth. The various supermarket spirits listed above sell for at least £1 cheaper per bottle than the widely available proprietary brands, varying in price from about £6 per bottle for gin up to £12 for malt whisky. But when you are shopping for spirits in the supermarkets, make sure that you buy full-strength 40 per cent alcohol and full-size 75cl bottles of gin, whisky or brandy.

Next week: Times tasting of fortified wines

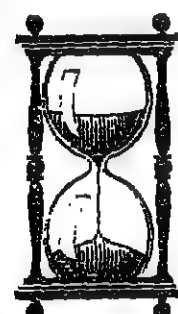
Ferreira: (n) A riveting [and often amusing] anecdote, usually recounted after a good meal.

Ferreira: (n) A particularly succulent grape [found in Portugal,] renowned for its euphoric qualities.



Ferreira: THE PORT WORLD'S BEST KEPT SECRET

Available at: Fendley, Ash & Nettle, The Vineyard, Arthur Rackham Wine Merchants, Fendley and other leading Off-licences.



NO 12 IN A SERIES OF LAGAVULIN LORE

A MATTER OF TIME

The Hebridean Isle of Islay may not attract large numbers of students of architecture nor seekers of sea air.

Yet there are things there to interest them both.

For at the Lagavulin malt whisky distillery there are the traditional long buildings which have been specifically designed to allow the casks of malt whisky stored within to be exposed to the damp sea atmosphere of Islay.

Slowly, year upon year, tempered by the moderating influences of the sea air, the malt develops the rich flavour that is the basis of White Horse whisky.

The locals say this particular process of maturation takes out the fire but leaves in the warmth.

Proof of their insight is in every glass of White Horse.

Blended to let the malt shine through.

WHITE HORSE

Distinctive Scotch Whisky.



At Christmas the tradition is of course Roast Turkey, but many choose Goose, Chicken, Duck, Beef or Game. Whatever the fayre, hot or cold, drink a delicious Rioja wine, a velvety red or a dry fruity white. Don't forget those working in the kitchen! A glass of Rioja whilst preparing the family feast is always appreciated.

Explore the wonderful wines of Rioja and find a quality and value that is unequalled.

Look for the little stamp...



The hallmark of excellence

For further information please contact The Rioja Wine Information Centre, Vinos de España, 22 Manchester Square, London W1. Tel. 01-935 6140.

LA RESERVE FINE WINES

SPECIALIST IN OLD & RARE WINES

Chateau 1955 vintage 1955, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 2681, 2682, 2683, 2684, 2685, 2686, 2687, 2688, 2689, 2690, 2691, 2692, 2693, 2694, 2695, 2696, 2697, 2698, 2699, 2700, 2701, 2702, 2703, 2704, 2705, 2706, 2707, 2708, 2709, 2710, 2711, 2712, 2713, 2714, 2715, 2716, 2717, 2718, 2719, 2720, 2721, 2722,

275 8914
JAN.
LIBRARY
RE
JAN 1968

ENTERTAINMENTS

THE WEEK AHEAD

By Peter Waymark

Advent of a quixotic double-act

TELEVISION

When TV brings the *News at Ten* an hour forward, as it does on Monday, something special is afoot. No, not another dreadful American mini-series but a splendid adaptation by Euston Films - the company responsible for *The Sweeney* and *Minder* - of Graham Greene's *Monsignor Quixote* (9.30-11.45pm).

To be precise it is an adaptation by Christopher Neame, directed by Rodney Bennett. It is right to stress the behind-the-camera credits, for they are likely to be obscured in the shower of praise that will surely descend on the central performances by Sir Alec Guinness and Leo McKern as the 19th-century Don Quixote and Sancho Panza.

Graham Greene rarely approves of screen versions of his novels but he is reported to be pleased with this one. So he should be. Everything about it is right, from the hot, dusty Spanish locations, to a script which has the authentic flavour of Greene's original and acting of the highest quality, from the biggest parts to the smallest.

Above all, the film is full of humour. Don Quixote and Sancho Panza were the Morecambe and Wise of their time. Guinness, as the humble parish priest unexpectedly elevated to Monsignor, and McKern, playing a deposed Communist mayor are a double act of no less talent.

Otherwise the week sees several autumn series coming to an end as the companies clear the decks for Christmas. Shed a tear or two for the last episode of *Juliet Bravo* (BBC1, 7.15-8.05pm). It was one of the first cop shows with a female lead, still pretty daring in 1980, and one of the few that manages to tell its stories without recourse to ear-bashing car chases and thugish violence.

It is goodbye, too, to Channel 4's *Shining*, a critical history of the 1970s. *The Writing on the Wall* (tomorrow, 9.15-10.30pm). Despite the absence of key figures Heath and Callaghan, both of whom declined to take part for fear of pre-empting their memoirs, is a cogent record. Inevitably, images and personalities have tended to take precedence over policies, but that is television's way. A big pat on the back for producer Philip Whithed and writer/senior Robert Lee.

What with *The Writing on the Wall* and the BBC's repeats of *Fanny Hill*, the *Star Quality* series of stories by Noel Coward has not had the attention it deserves, and certainly not the audience. It signs off tomorrow (BBC1, 9.05-10.30pm) with *Mrs and Mr Edgell*, a Mad Dogs and Englishmen tale set in the remote Pacific on the eve of the Second World War with Ian Holm, doggedly flying the British flag.

Graham Reid's secret of plays set in Ulster, *Ties of Blood*, has been notable for putting a human face on the troubles of that tragic province, while not trying to minimize the hatreds and divisions. The last in the series, *The Military Wing* (BBC2, Tuesday, 9.10pm), uses a hospital to explore a range of personal relationships and differing reactions to an emergency.

JAMES GALWAY: The famous flautist solos in Mozart's Concerto K513 and conducts the BBC Concert Orchestra in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* Overture and Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*. This programme is given twice. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 8795, credit cards 01-638 8891). Tomorrow, 3pm and 7.30pm.

HEIDRICH'S XMAS: Conducted by Richard Hickox, the LSO and London Symphony Choir perform *Brother Heinrich's Christmas* by John Rutter, Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* Overture and Darius's *Sleigh Ride*. Barbican Centre, Tues and Wed, 7pm.

MASUR/RPO: The RPO is conducted by Kurt Masur. Weber's *Der Freischütz* Overture, Brahms's Symphony No. 2, and Ids Handel's solos in Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-628 8191, credit cards 01-628 8800). Wed, 7.30pm.

BOCHMANN'S BRITTEN: The Bochmann Quartet offers Britten's Quartet No. 2, Tippett's Quartet No. 2, Rawsthorne's Quartet No. 3 and the remarkable G minor Chaconne of Purcell. Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, credit cards 01-928 8800). Wed, 7.30pm.

NEW MATTHEWS: Bryden Thomson conducts the Halle Orchestra in the world premiere of David Matthews's Symphony No. 3. Free Trade Hall, Manchester (061-834 1712). Thurs, 7.30pm.

For ticket availability, performance and opening times, telephone the numbers listed. **Concerts:** Max Harrison; **Rock & Jazz:** Richard Williams; **Opera:** Hilary Finch



Together at last: Henry Fonda with Katharine Hepburn in *On Golden Pond*

Fonda's sunset glory

FILMS ON TV

Henry Fonda was one of Hollywood's finest actors but he had never, in his 45 years in movies, won an Oscar. Katharine Hepburn had won two Oscars but had never, in nearly half a century in films, acted with Henry Fonda.

Jane Fonda had been in films for 20 years but never in the same movie as father Henry. When the two of them fell out, over her opposition to the Vietnam war as well as personal differences, the chances of professional collaboration seemed remote.

The emotional theme of the film is reflected in the visual detail, a golden summer turning to autumn with lingering shots of rippling water and miraculous sunsets. The director of photography was the British cameraman, Billy Williams, who won an Oscar for *Gandhi*. Unashamedly sentimental, *On Golden Pond* was a throwback to Hollywood's heyday. In the cynical and violent world of the 1980s it seemed a strange bedfellow for Rambo and Mad Max.

And yet it found an audience, and a very big one. More than 80 per cent of people who go to the cinema are in their teens and early 20s, hardly the following for a film with no violence or explicit sex and ageing stars. Perhaps the word got round, and an older generation of filmgoers who had not set foot inside a cinema for years to come to take a last look at the idols of their youth, the Hepburn who had sparred with Spencer Tracy and the Fonda of *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Whatever the chemistry of *On Golden Pond*, its happy-end conclusion was soon echoed in real life. When Oscar time came round in March 1982, the top awards went to Hepburn and Henry Fonda. Henry was too ill to attend and Jane went up in his place. Six months later he was dead.

RECOMMENDED

Westworld (1973): Inventive science-fiction thriller from Michael Crichton, with the late Yul Brynner as a wild western robot gunslinger grapples clients' fantasies in a high holiday resort (BBC2, Mon, 9.30-10.55pm).

The Beggar's Opera (1982): Lively and colourful version of John Gay's 18th-century musical, directed by the young Peter Kosminsky. Laurence Olivier plays (and sings) the highwayman, Macheath, with Stanley Holloway and Dorothy Tutin as Polly Peachum (Channel 4, Thurs, 2.35-4.15pm).

Sweet Smell of Success (1957): British director Alexander Mackendrick's first Hollywood film, a scathing view of American showbusiness with superbly judged performances from Burt Lancaster and Tony Curtis as a newspaper columnist and a press agent (BBC2, Fri, 11.30-1.10am).

Women, power and poverty

RADIO

Formidable women dominate the airwaves this week and we will start with those queens of the Parisian artistic world of the 1920s, Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas.

Gertrude, who came from a wealthy German-Jewish family in Pennsylvania, was the patroness of artists such as Picasso, Cocteau, Matisse and Proust. Alice, also American, and no less flamboyant, wrote a famous cookbook. They lived together for nearly 40 years, until Gertrude's death from cancer.

Ernest Hemingway called them Gertrude Stein and a

Companion, the title of the play by Win Wells which has its first production tomorrow (Radio 3, 7.45-8.55pm). Miriam Margulies plays Gertrude and Natasha Morgan Alice in a mosaic of their life together drawn largely from Gertrude's own writings.

Earlier the same evening on Radio 4, Bookshelf (6.30-7pm) is devoted to an interview between Hunter Davies and the New Zealand writer, Ken Hume, who started her career as a Capri, where she became known for her devotion to the poor.

Not to ignore the men, Radio 3 today has an 80th birthday assessment of the novelist Anthony Powell (7.15-8pm), with contributions from Kingsley Amis, Hilary Spurling, Clive James and Powell himself.

THE TIMES CHOICE

OPERA

ROYAL OPERA: Just one opera night this week - *Le nozze di Figaro* on Wed at 7pm with Jonathan Summers in the title role. Sir Colin Davis conducts. Covent Garden, London WC1 (01-240 1068).

ROCK & JAZZ

BARBICAN BELLINI: Just one concert performance, tonight at 7.45pm, of the Naples version of Bellini's *Il Pirata* with the vocal soloist, Maria Malibran. Suzanne Murphy takes the part of Elvira, with the Ambrosian Singers and London Symphony Orchestra. Barbican Hall, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 8795/8891).

CONCERTS

JAMES GALWAY: The famous flautist solos in Mozart's Concerto K513 and conducts the BBC Concert Orchestra in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* Overture and Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite*. This programme is given twice. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-628 8795, credit cards 01-638 8891). Tomorrow, 3pm and 7.30pm.

HEIDRICH'S XMAS: Conducted by Richard Hickox, the LSO and London Symphony Choir perform *Brother Heinrich's Christmas* by John Rutter, Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* Overture and Darius's *Sleigh Ride*. Barbican Centre, Tues and Wed, 7pm.

MASUR/RPO: The RPO is conducted by Kurt Masur. Weber's *Der Freischütz* Overture, Brahms's Symphony No. 2, and Ids Handel's solos in Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-628 8191, credit cards 01-628 8800). Wed, 7.30pm.

BOCHMANN'S BRITTEN: The Bochmann Quartet offers Britten's Quartet No. 2, Tippett's Quartet No. 2, Rawsthorne's Quartet No. 3 and the remarkable G minor Chaconne of Purcell. Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191, credit cards 01-928 8800). Wed, 7.30pm.

NEW MATTHEWS: Bryden Thomson conducts the Halle Orchestra in the world premiere of David Matthews's Symphony No. 3. Free Trade Hall, Manchester (061-834 1712). Thurs, 7.30pm.

For ticket availability, performance and opening times, telephone the numbers listed. **Concerts:** Max Harrison; **Rock & Jazz:** Richard Williams; **Opera:** Hilary Finch

THEATRES

CREDIT CARD 01-579 8433
Theatre Royal, Coventry
Many of the best of the year
from 1984 to 1985
from 1984 to 1985
from 1984 to 1985

BEST MUSICAL OF THE YEAR
ME AND MY GIRL
THE LARGEST MUSICAL
ROBERT LINDSAY
BEST ACTOR IN A MUSICAL
CHRIS CHAMBERS
BEST ACTRESS IN A MUSICAL
JILL HARRIS
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR
JILL HARRIS
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS
JILL HARRIS

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433

ALHAMBRA THEATRE 01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-579 8433
01-5

THE WEEK AHEAD



DANCE

MOTHER COURAGE: Charlotte Kirkpatrick plays the grieving mother in Robert Cohan's *Stabat Mater* for London Contemporary Dance Theatre. In a contemporary setting, she does not acknowledge stars, her quiet manner brought her a range of leading roles. Sadler's Wells Theatre (01-278 8916) from Tuesday.



ROCK

HOWARD'S WAY: Howard Jones, unassuming master of the electronic keyboard, performs his Christmas show. His brief but telling appearance on Live Aid, banished the critics' theory that he is over-reliant on technology. National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham (021 780 4133), Friday.



FILMS

TREASURE HUNT: Richard Chamberlain is Allan Quatermain in the fourth film version of *King Solomon's Mines* (PG) which re-shapes H. Rider Haggard's classic story of the quest for treasure. Directed by J. Lee Thompson. Classic Haymarket (01-839 1527) and Prince Charles (01-437 8181) from Friday.



THEATRE

PECKING ORDER: Bob Peck, who has become a national figure through the television thriller, *Edge of Darkness*, returns to the stage in a revival of Athol Fugard's *The Road to Mecca* with Yvonne Bryceland. Cottesloe (01-928 2252) from Monday. *Edge of Darkness* is being repeated on BBC1 from Thursday.



CHRISTMAS SHOWS

EVERGREEN: Bonnie Langford, the latter-day Shirley Temple who made her name playing Violet Elizabeth in the *William* stories, has the lead part in *Peter Pan* a musical version of J. M. Barrie's story. Joss Ackland is Captain Hook. Aldwych Theatre (01-836 6404), opens Friday after previews.



TELEVISION

DOG COLLAR: Alec Guinness is a rare visitor to the television screen but his performances are usually memorable. His part in Graham Greene's *Monsignor Quixote* is no exception, a piece of effortlessly brilliant acting in which the strict change in face or gesture speaks volumes. See page 17.

THE TIMES CHOICE

THEATRE

IN PREVIEW

CINDERELLA: Des O'Connor, Sarah Payne, Paul Nicholas, Dame Anna Neagle, John Junkin in the most elaborate of London's "traditional" pantomimes. Palladium (01-437 7373/2055). Previews Wed - Fri and Dec 21 at 2.30pm. Opens Dec 23.

OPENINGS

AS YOU LIKE IT: Adrian Noble's RSC production, well-received at Stratford, comes to London with its principal casting unchanged. Juliet Stevenson, Bruce Alexander, Flora Shaw, Nicky Hanson, Hilson McFar, Joseph O'Connor. Barbican (01-628 8795/638 8891). Previews today (matinee and evening) and Mon. Opens Tues. in repertory.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: Joely Richardson, Jack Klaff, Natasha Parry, directed by Jules Wright in Louise Page's version of the tale of a young man who must remain a monster until a young girl agrees to marry him. Joint production by Women's Playhouse Trust and Liverpool Playhouse. Old Vic (01-928 7616). Previews Tues and Wed. Opens Thurs.

MELONS: Author of *The Elephant Man*, Bernard Pomeroy sells his new play in a New Mexico melon patch. In 1906, An old Apache and a one-time battlefield foe, an ex-cavalry officer, meet again. Alison Sutcliffe directs Ben Kingsley, David Burke, Anton Lesser, Suran Colvard. The Pit, Barbican (01-628 8795/638 8891). Performances today, Mon, Tues. Press Night Wed. In repertory.

THE DUCHESS OF MALFI: Ian McKellen is superb as the equivocal hiring boss in a grand revival of Webster's Jacobean shocker. With Edward Petherbridge, Jonathan Hyde, Eleanor Bron, Sheila Hancock and Roy Kinnear. Lydellton (01-928 2252). In repertory.

EDMOND: David Mamet's pacy, episodic nightmare of modern New York has Colin Stinton as a Mr Average walking out on his wife (Connie Booth) to take up with a waitress (Miranda Richardson). Royal Court (01-730 1745).

OPIUM EATER: Andrew Delmege's brilliant day-in-the-life of Thomas de Quincey brings excellent performances from Neil Cunningham as the faded hack and Stewart Preston as his sly, half-mad servant. Gate Theatre Club, 11 Pembroke Road, London W11 (01-229 0706).

OUT OF TOWN

BRISTOL: Taking Steps: One of Alan Ayckbourn's most visual comedies, set in a manor house which is up for sale. Anthony Cornish directs Ian Lindsay, Gareth Armstrong, Ishia Bennison, Stephen Churchett. New Vic (0272 24388). Opens Tues.

SHEFFIELD: Canterbury Tales: Phil Woods's adaptation from Chaucer, with music directed by Stephen Warbeck. Stephen Daldry directs Joe McGann, Lesley Nicol, Judith Street, Leo Winger in an adult alternative Christmas entertainment. Crucible Studio (0742 79922). Public dress rehearsals Wed and matinee Thurs. Opens Thurs evening.

WATFORD: Seasons Greetings: Alan Ayckbourn's typically acid and hilarious view of a family and friends Christmas. Evenings, while *The Adventures of a Bear Called Paddington* provides the matinee. Palace (0923 25571). Opens Fri.

FILMS

OPENINGS

THE BLACK PIRATE (U): One of the most exhilarating swashbucklers from Douglas Fairbanks (pictured here in the clutches of Donald Crisp), made in 1926 in early Technicolor process and revived in a new print with live musical accompaniment by Adrian Parkin and Billie Dove. ICA Children's Cinema (01-930 3647). From Fri, daily at 3, 6.30 and 8.30pm.



AGONY (PG): Elem Klimov's powerful portrait of Russia in revolutionary turmoil, with a virtuoso performance from Alexei Petrenko as Rasputin and Camden Plaza (01-435 2443). Chelsea Cinema (01-351 3742).

A ZED AND TWO NOUGHTS (18): Peter Greenaway's massively bizarre story of love, decay and evolution among zoo employees and animals. Bizarre, disturbing, and ultimately infuriating. Lumiere (01-836 0691).

ROBERT NOORTMAN: Opening exhibition for leading dealer in 17th-century Dutch and Flemish paintings, with a smattering of French 18th-century works as well. Noortman, 40-41 Old Bond Street, London W1 (01-491 7284). From Wed.

IVORY, FEATHERS AND LACE: Fans from the museum of London's 200-year collection, which dates from the 17th to 20th century. Includes a number commemorating historic events: a balcony descent from the city in 1783 and the Bartholomew Fair. Museum of London, London W4, EC2 (01-600 3699). From Tues.

PRIZZI'S HONOUR (18): A tangled tale of two hired killers falling in love, directed by John Huston with much sly humour; with Jack Nicholson, Kathleen Turner. Odeon Haymarket (01-930 2771).

WHEN FATHER WAS AWAY ON BUSINESS (15): Emir Kusturica's delightful ironic portrait of post-war life in Yugoslavia, seen through the eyes of a six-year-old boy. Cannon Premiere (01-437 2098). ICA Cinema (01-930 3647).

BACK TO THE FUTURE (PG): Overblown fantasy from the House of Spielberg with an engaging central idea. Michael J. Fox stars as the modern teenager whisked back to 1955 when fashions - and his parents - were far different. Empire (01-437 1234).

DANCE

LONDON CITY BALLET: A new ballet by Wayne Sleep, together with André Prokhorov's *Homage to Juliet* to Berlioz music and Jack Carter's comic *Quodlibet* make the programme for a gala performance (tomorrow). Sadler's Wells (01-278 8916).

ROYAL BALLET: Peter Wright's staging of *The Nutcracker* returns to the repertory (today at 2.30 and 7.30pm, Mon, Tues, Fri). Another performance of Wright's *Giselle* (Thurs) has Fiona Chadwick in the title part. Covent Garden (01-240 1086).

LONDON CONTEMPORARY: Today's programme at Sadler's Wells includes Christopher Bannerman's new *Shadows in the Sun*. The programme Tues-Dec 21 is planned for family pre-Christmas viewing with two works on religious themes (*Stabat Mater* and *The Annunciation*) and the showpiece *Glass*. Sadler's Wells (01-278 8916).

SCOTTISH BALLET: Peter Darrell's version of *The Nutcracker* is revived (Wed-Dec 21) for six performances at the Edinburgh Playhouse (031 557 2590), to be followed by three weeks from Dec 23 at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234).

ON TOUR: Northern Ballet Theatre give Prokhorov's *Nutcracker* today at the Theatre Royal, Norwich (0603 28205) and a programme of *Les Sylphides*, *Aurora's Wedding* and the new *Suite Italienne* at the Evans Theatre, Wiltshire Leisure Centre (0625 533789) Wed - Dec 21. Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet has a mixed bill at the Congress Theatre, Eastbourne (0235 58363) today, and Festival Ballet at the Birmingham Hippodrome (021 622 7486) today with *Coppelia*.

GALLERIES

OPENINGS

ROBERT NOORTMAN: Opening exhibition for leading dealer in 17th-century Dutch and Flemish paintings, with a smattering of French 18th-century works as well. Noortman, 40-41 Old Bond Street, London W1 (01-491 7284). From Wed.

IVORY, FEATHERS AND LACE: Fans from the museum of London's 200-year collection,

which dates from the 17th to 20th century. Includes a number commemorating historic events: a balcony descent from the city in 1783 and the Bartholomew Fair. Museum of London, London W4, EC2 (01-600 3699). From Tues.

CHRISTMAS SHOW: Contemporary ceramics by James Tower, carvings and prints by the Eskimo Inuit, and an exhibition to commemorate Charles Gimpel, the gallery's founder, comprising his photographs of the Canadian Arctic. Gimpel Filis, 30 Davies Street, London W1 (01-493 2488). From Thurs.

AFTER IMAGES: Work by nine young artists who went to the same school - Craigroyston High School - in Edinburgh, incorporating a wide variety of styles and media. City of Edinburgh Art Centre, 2 Market Street (031 225 2424). From today.

MONSTROUS CARBUNCLES: More than 180 original cartoons on architectural themes, for sale in aid of Shelter. London Building Centre, 28 Store Street, London WC1 (01-637 1022). From Mon.

SELECTED

HOMAGE TO BARCELONA: Major tribute to the art and architecture of the Spanish city from 1888 to 1936, with work by Picasso, Miro, Dalí and Gaudi. Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3144).

HALLELUJAH HANDEL: Celebrating the 300th anniversary of the birth of the composer, with paintings, sculpture, engravings, musical instruments and scores. National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (01-930 1552).

LOST MAGIC KINGDOMS: First exhibition at the Museum of Mankind to involve a major contemporary artist. A selection of ethnography - including a two-headed fetish from Zaire and a sun-baked brick from Mali - selected by the abstract artist Eduardo Paolozzi. Museum of Mankind, Burlington Gardens, London W1 (01-636 1555).

MARIE-LOUISE VON MOTESICZKY: Powerful paintings, often portraits, by a Viennese artist who emigrated to England in 1938. Goethe-Institut, 50 Princes Gate, London SW7 (01-581 3344).

PHOTOGRAPHY

BLACK SUN: THE EYES OF FOUR: Ekoh Hosoe, Shomei Tomatsu, Masahito Fukase and Daido Moriyama use myth, documentary, symbolism and metaphor in an attempt to articulate the changing face of Japan during the last 40 years. About 180 powerful black and white images. Museum of Modern Art, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford (0855 722733).

FACES OF OUR TIME: Colour photographs of the rich and famous, including film stars, sportsmen and all the others who make the colour magazines what they are today. These are all drawn from the pages of the *Telegraph Magazine*. Royal Photographic Society, Milson Street, Bath (0225 62841).

ROYAL OPERA: Postal booking opened this week for *Simon Boccanegra*, with Plácido Domingo, and for performances of *Faust* and *Saints*. For *Faust*, booking also for the Royal Ballet from Dec 27-Feb 21. Box Office, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066). Telephone and personal bookings from Jan 2.

SOUTH BANK CONCERTS: Advance postal booking now open for Feb programme, including new Britten/Pearce series by the Philharmonia Orchestra. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191; credit cards: 01-928 8800; information: 01-928 3002).

BARBICAN THEATRE: Jan openings include *The Merry Wives of Windsor* with Janet Dale, Peter Jeffrey, Sheila Stashef. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 8691).

LAST CHANCE

PHEDRA: Glenda Jackson, Robert Edmondson and Georgina Hale star in Philip Prowse's revival of Racine's play. Ends tonight. Aldwych Theatre, London WC2. (01-838 6404).

A. B. KITAL: Mid-career retrospective, mainly made up of recent work. Ends Fri. Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, London W1 (01-629 5161).

Look out, there's a Goon behind you!



Dastardly robber

Spike Milligan tells

Peter Waymark why

he can't harm the

Babes in the Wood

In the corner of a canteen two actors are going through their lines. The waves of the glorious comedy cross-talk well up and crash and reform until neither man can contain his giggles. On one side of the table is Bill Pertwee, who used to play the nasty warden in *Dad's Army*. On the other, unmistakably, is Spike Milligan.

It is a dank December morning and the community centre in south London is as cheerless as the weather outside. But the show must go on. From these unpromising surroundings will emerge a Christmas pantomime. *Babes in the Wood*, with Pertwee and Milligan as the robbers.

Enter your correspondent. "Fame at last," says Spike. "I've been interviewed by *The Times* before. How is the old Thunder?" He wants to talk about the troubles of Fleet Street. I want to talk about him and pantomime and why, suddenly and belatedly, the two have come together.

At the age of 67 I have been discovered," he declares. "Someone once asked me if I had any regrets and I said it was a pity no one had ever booked me for pantomime. Whereupon someone said: 'That was last year at Chichester. I played this clown character and it seemed to go well and it was a pity to waste it.'"

So here he is again. Quite a departure for someone who has spent most of his professional life acting his own scripts or simply ad-libbing. Would he really be sticking to the lines this time or would he be tempted to put in a few gems of his own?

"I am tempted all the time because I am that sort of performer, but in this sort of show you really have to stick to the plot. It's like a game of Rugby. The joke is the ball and you keep passing it from one person to another until you make the touchdown, which is the laugh."

Back to panto.

"The bear, laughter is children's laughter. We were doing this *Bugsy Bee* routine. It's pretty old but Beebovian's Fifth Symphony is pretty old and they still play it. We go to the water squirting bit and this little lad, couldn't have been more than five, was doubled over. He could not take any more. Marvellous."

Pantomime is lots of colour and lights and a plot that anybody can understand. Here the sheriff is trying to get rid of the two babes and Robin Hood comes to their rescue. I am one of the robbers who is supposed to kill them. But I turn out to be a pacifist. Pretty dismal for an assassin."

We go upstairs into the hall. Jimmy Perry, the show's writer-director, calls the cast to order. As co-writer of *Dad's Army* and *Hi-De-Hi!* he knows a trick or two about comedy. As do Bill Pertwee and Patrick Carrell, who plays the dame. It is a schoolroom scene and you have to imagine Spike dressed not in anorak and sneakers but as a small girl.

He skips in, holding Pertwee's hand. "What's your name, little girl?" asks Carrell. "Ermintrude," replies Milligan. In a funny voice. Carrell: "We'll call you Ermin and leave out the rude bit."

"It's the most risqué gag in the whole show," says Spike, who proceeds to tackle the thorny question of blue jokes and honest vulgarity. "Last year we got the kids going with bum. That was their rude word. They also like knickers and smelly. But not this time. I don't think Jimmy Perry will let me say bum."

Spike describes his own humour as abstract. He remembers an old Marx Brothers picture. "Someone says, 'Quick, duck behind this couch.' And the other guy says, 'There's no duck behind this couch.' It is the same impulse that makes Spike go up to Maid Marian in a pantomime and call her Cinderella, or open up a chest and exclaim, 'Oh, Lord, Lucan, I've been looking for you.'"

He puts on a sort of *Goon Show* voice for his pacifist robber but thinks the Goons are long enough into the past now for audiences not to expect him to go through the whole repertoire. He looks back with mixed feelings. He may have given a lot of pleasure to others but the strain of writing 26 scripts a year for nine years gave him four nervous breakdowns and broke up his marriage.

Curiously, apart from a *Goon Show* special to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the BBC, he has hardly worked in radio since. "I had proved myself but when the Goons finished I was never asked again. A bit like having a good horse and never entering it for a race."

But for all the agony he prefers writing to performing. He has just added three more to his long list of books. His war memoirs, which started with *Adolf Hitler - My Part in His Downfall*, have reached their fifth volume.

Spike unwinds with jazz - he was a jazz musician before he turned to comedy - and ballet and classical music. He used to like the pops as well, roughly up to and including the Beatles. "I could hear what they were saying," now all people do is scream and shout."

Noise, for Spike, is one of the curses of the age. It was noisy students on each side that drove him out of his flat in Regent Square to the comparative tranquillity of suburban Hendon. But he had a double-edged glazing fitted, just in case.

The rehearsal breaks up for lunch. "I don't eat lunch," says Spike. "It's my contribution to solving world hunger." Then someone talks on a tape and it is too much. "Bloody noise," mutters the Good Robber, and shambles off back to the peace of the canteen.

Babes in the Wood opens at the Richmond Theatre, The Green, Richmond (01-940 9088) on Mon.

Secret negotiations have been going on for several months to bring actor Jeremy Irons into the Royal Shakespeare Company. Irons, who is married to RSC actress Sinead Cusack, has earned himself a massive idol tag despite more serious aspirations. His part as Charles Ryder in *Brideshead Revisited* has become something of a professional albatross and 60 weeks with the RSC could be just the thing. The negotiations are on the basis that Irons and Cusack will play a number of pieces together, though the company itself seems to be dragging its feet over the details. Already six months into negotiations, he is nearer an agreement. I am told: "If the RSC don't get it sorted out within the next month they'll lose him." Culture or no, an actor has to eat.

The Christmas Day television spectacular commemorating the dazzling partnership of Dame Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev omits the sorry details of Dame Margot's present-day existence. Now living in relative poverty in Panama City, any spare time she has is devoted to tending her 'boy' - her friends still want to know far her but they realize that she is unlikely to budge.

St. Yehudi Menuhin tells me he has played at many venues in his career, but never in a tailor's shop. Tonight, on behalf of the Prince's Trust, he will achieve this sartorial first by playing *Viviani and Gervase* and *Hawkes in Savile Row*. Gervase have given over their show room, once the Library of the Royal Geographical Society, for the event. But Menuhin is still thirsty for new venues: "I would play in an Underground station if the commuters could learn not to push."

ARTS DIARY

Irons in the fire

Secret negotiations have been going on for several months to bring actor Jeremy Irons into the Royal Shakespeare Company. Irons, who is married to RSC actress Sinead Cusack, has earned himself a massive idol tag despite more serious aspirations. His part as Charles Ryder in *Brideshead Revisited* has become something of a professional albatross and 60 weeks with the RSC could be just the thing. The negotiations are on the basis that Irons and Cusack will play a number of pieces together, though the company itself seems to be dragging its feet over the details. Already six months into negotiations, he is nearer an agreement. I am told: "If the RSC don't get it sorted out within the next month they'll lose him." Culture or no, an actor has to eat.

The Christmas Day television spectacular commemorating the dazzling partnership of Dame Margot Fonteyn and Rudolf Nureyev omits the sorry details of Dame Margot's present-day existence. Now living in relative poverty in Panama City, any spare time she has is devoted to tending her 'boy' - her friends still want to know far her but they realize that she is unlikely to budge.

St. Yehudi Menuhin tells me he has played at many venues in his career, but never in a tailor's shop. Tonight, on behalf of the Prince's Trust, he will achieve this sartorial first by playing *Viviani and Gervase* and *Hawkes in Savile Row*. Gervase have given over their show room, once the Library of the Royal Geographical Society, for the event. But Menuhin is still thirsty for new venues: "I would play in an Underground station if the commuters could learn not to push."

St. Yehudi Menuhin tells me he has played at many venues in his career, but never in a tailor's shop. Tonight, on behalf of the Prince's Trust, he will achieve this sartorial first by playing *Viviani and Gervase* and *Hawkes in Savile Row*. Gervase have given over their show room, once the Library of the Royal Geographical Society, for the event. But Menuhin is still thirsty for new venues: "I would play in an Underground station if the commuters could learn not to push."

Snap happy

One of the more curious festive communications-around is a series of Lord Snowdon portraits of the "stars" of London Weekend Television. Cilla Black, Bruce Forsyth, and Jimmy Tarbuck have all been captured by Snowdon's lens for his Christmas brochure, and though its focus are not by any means his greatest work. If to

Lord Snowdon and Cilla Black no one else, though, it will bring a sense of seasonal cheer to mildred; he earned an estimated £50,000 for the sittings. Meanwhile, elsewhere at LWT, the ever-inventive staff of the *South Bank Show* came up with a mischievous suggestion for a 'booby prize' at last night's Christmas party - the film rights to presenter Melvyn Bragg's novel, *The Hired Man*.

Border confrontations across Hadrian's Wall between the local Scots and the Saxons, acting as a resident police force for the Romans, proved too hot a subject for the *U.S.A.*-based Field Day Company who commissioned *The Saxons Shore* in 1983. Thus David Rudkin's play will be premiered in London's tiny Almeida Theatre in February. They insist: "It is definitely not about Northern Ireland."

Christopher Wilson

DESIGNER FURS THAT MAKE YOU FEEL FANTASTIC- AT LESS THAN FACTORY PRICES

THIS SUNDAY
DECEMBER 15th 9am-3.30pm
RUBENS HOTEL, BUCKINGHAM
PALACE ROAD, LONDON SW1

Due to public demand, Ross Furriers present another world class Fur Sale, where the new 1986 designs will be presented and available for purchase for the first time. By purchasing from Ross you will be buying the very best in quality and style at direct factory prices.

Choose from Russian Silver Foxes, *Black & White* Female Minks, Sable Fox, London label, the choice is endless.

Fox Jackets from £79
Mink Jackets from £275
Full length Fox Coats from £395
Full length Raccoon Coats from £795
Full length Mink Coats from £395

FOR MORE INFORMATION RING 0532 452479

TAX FREE FOR OVERSEAS CUSTOMERS

Ross Furriers

34 Lands Lane, Leeds 1. Telephone 0532 452479



ALL RUSSELL GUARANTEED
INTEREST FREE CREDIT AVAILABLE
Written conditions available. Licensed Credit Brokers.

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

ROYAL OPERA: Postal booking opened this week for *Simon Boccanegra*, with Plácido Domingo, and for performances of *Faust* and *Saints*. For *Faust*, booking also for the Royal Ballet from Dec 27-Feb 21. Box Office, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (01-240 1066). Telephone and personal bookings from Jan 2.

SOUTH BANK CONCERTS: Advance postal booking now open for Feb programme, including new Britten/Pearce series by the Philharmonia Orchestra. Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191; credit cards: 01-928 8800; information: 01-928 3002).

BARBICAN THEATRE: Jan openings include *The Merry Wives of Windsor* with Janet Dale, Peter Jeffrey, Sheila Stashef. Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 8691).

LAST CHANCE

PHEDRA: Glenda Jackson, Robert Edmondson and Georgina Hale star in Philip Prowse's revival of Racine's play. Ends tonight. Aldwych Theatre, London WC2. (01-838 6404).

A. B. KITAL: Mid-career retrospective, mainly made up of recent work. Ends Fri. Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, London W1 (01-629 5161).

CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Openin
thorns new C

THE ARTS

Long distance form:
Mark Lawson looks
at John Craven's
Newsround which
has a large
adult audience

Talking up
to the
children

Thirteen years ago, the BBC announced "the world's first news bulletin for children". As John Craven's *Newsround* approaches its 2,500th edition and its 1986 promotion from four to five days a week, two figures are eloquent testimony to its achievement: in 1972, a survey of the children's television audience revealed that 0.7 per cent regularly watched the news; in 1985, *Newsround* regularly attracts 6 or 7 million viewers and winter figures of 9 million are not unknown.

Newsround is one of the glorious success stories of British television. Its story is one of initial opposition - early controversies ranged from the advisability of showing the Six Day War to the correctness of a BBC presenter wearing sweaters - defeated to become an institution.

At a time of great debate about what children should be shown on television screens, the *Newsround* rules of conduct deserve examination. First, there must be no glossing over of death, no close-up of the Colombian earthquake, with little loss of impact, through the broken limbs of buildings littering the streets. Murders and rapes are not mentioned, although the capture of the "Yorkshire Ripper" was. Politics is omitted on the basis that the economy and industry are irrelevant to children. The child's equivalent of industry - the school - is well-covered. BBC Head of Children's Programmes, Edward Barnes, began *Newsround*, says, "I was banned from schools the day that the atom bomb in Washington, we'd lead on a casing." The brief, he says,



is to inform without boring or disturbing. Thursday's edition for example, covered five stories in 10 minutes, leading with the latest film of Halley's Comet and including items on the Canadian air crash (linked to a reassurance of the relative safety of air travel), a baby girl named after the deceased Daley Thompson, an item on the pop group Thompson Twins and a pay-off about an exhibition of dolls.

The great strength of *Newsround*, and one which presumably attracts the many adults among its audience, is its necessary mission to make the intricate simple.

It is hard to see any remaining credibility in the argument that children are being told and shown things they need not know. Cotton-wool them as you will, children still inevitably pick up images and impressions.

John Craven is the only newsreader in Britain to get his name above the title and he is the vital link between young viewers and the news. In a smile and a sweater, he fits brilliantly between "Hello again" and "Bye-bye" a two-minute mix of global disaster and dancing dolphins. He has made the role his own and it is impossible to imagine that any other presenter could do it better.

It is a nice irony, and one in which *Newsround* should take pleasure, that while the rest of the BBC News output has spent a decade shuffling desks and presenters in an attempt to find consistently intelligent authority, the originally unassisted little brother got the format right first time and maintains its level of excellence.

Last night's television

is difficult not to be drawn by the irresistible awfulness of *Yentl* (BBC1), especially last night's episode, a mouth-watering, re-creation of the entire cast including Catherine O'Hara.

I once witnessed a drunken Argentine gambler attempt an impersonation of Donald Duck. He was Olivier compared with Catherine O'Hara's rendition of Amanda Carrington - which, as an over-inflated doll, consisted in releasing squeals of "Yentl" it is for this basiliak quality, albeit dressed exotically and set in exotic locations, that we watch. And last night's programme was the most banal, the most exotic and the most wonderfully watchable of them all.

It was set in the Getty-like

palace of the King of Moldavia. A mistake, surely, was one's first reaction, since Moldavia exists as all Moldavians will tell you. Then it slowly dawned that Edward DeBlaio, that Sophoclean scriptwriter, might be intending to inject some pertinent social message into a script directed by the aptly-named Jerome Courtland and inspired by delicately combining the St Valentine's Day Massacre with Grace Kelly's wedding.

For Amanda Carrington (the real-life daughter of a mid-European Princess) was marrying Prince Michael of Moldavia (who looked like a long-haired banker) in the Royal Palace (of a fictional country which turns out to exist) and everyone is there.

Blake (motto: "It's your life, darling"), Alexis ("Don't throw

John Gabriel
Borkman
Odéon

Opening its third season at the Odéon, the Théâtre de l'Europe picks up from where it left off, with the revival of Giorgio Strehler's production of *L'Inhibition* and the return of Ingmar Bergman.

This time, however, Bergman arrives from a different starting point. The magnificent *King Lear* (which I reviewed last March) was the work of his Stockholm company. John Gabriel Borkman, played by the Bayreuth's Stauschnapfel, is a product of his self-imposed exile in Munich; and, if you hold the view that Munich's citizens incline to the condition either of sausages or gift-wrapped chocolates, you will find this prejudice reinforced by the company now on view at the Odéon.

The sisters Renheim, far from suggesting lives spent withering away in dark corners, emerge as luxuriant specimens of Bavarian womanhood, their coiled hair gleaming like burnished metal. To outdo them in her abduction of young Erhart, Mrs Wilton has to come on as an art nouveau vamp, festooned in the pelt of slaughtered animals and bestowing voluptu-

Theatre
Ice cold hearts

ous caresses on the doting youth under the blistering gaze of his aunt and mother.

At the opposite end of the scale, Borkman's old friend Földi is in an advanced state of dilapidation while the stutish maid is seen morosely struggling into a threadbare skirt whenever her presence is required in the sitting-room.

Guilla Palmstierna-Weiss's settings are as clean as a bone. Claustrophobia is implied simply by the use of inset platforms: two seats and a lamp for the blood-red sitting-room; a piano and one vast upstage tapestry of Croesus for Borkman's den. When the action moves to the mountain forest, two black shutters close over the facade of the house, leaving an upstage area of darkness for the two fugitives to traverse on their final climb to the summit. It is enough, and it entirely eliminates the usual crashing gearchange between the cluttered naturalism of the first three acts and the unfettered poetry of the ending.

Together with simplification of setting goes an elaboration of character. From past productions of this play, it has

seemed that Ibsen knew too exactly what he wanted to say, and encountered no obstacles in saying it. Borkman is about coldness of heart, as demonstrated by cold people in a setting of snow and ice. The plot, with Erhart's obligatory escape to the warm South, is fiendishly ingenious.

From my patchy understanding of the German performance, it seems that Bergman, to an amazing degree, has discovered unsuspected reserves of spontaneity within the robot exchange. The atmosphere is as cold as ever, but its expression is no longer predictable.

One obvious example is the scene between Borkman and the failed poet, massaging up each other's dreams of glory in a shared wish-fulfilment game. It is the one scene that always works.

Hans Michael Rehberg scores up no easy points against Borkman's vanity. He simply sees himself, after 16 years of confinement, still as a master banker.

He does not patronize Földi. He even allows him to read an extract from his dreadful tragedy. And, when the game

collapses, all you are conscious of is the pain that two old friends are giving each other. There is no sense of the dramatist crowing over their inevitable disillusionment.

Again, when Ella Renheim, his discarded mistress, informs Borkman that she is suffering from an incurable disease brought on by an emotional ordeal, Christa Berndt delivers the information straight out, with no undercurrent of poisonous accusation; and Rehberg's response, instead of the expected snarl of embittered guilt, is to embrace her.

It would be a sentimental distortion to push any of these figures into sympathetic groupings; but, to a rare degree, the production shows them as prisoners of their past actions struggling for a small margin of freedom and goodwill.

Otherwise, Bergman takes two interesting liberties, by substituting Beethoven for the *Danse macabre* for Borkman's private recital, and suppressing the sound of his feet tramping overhead in the sitting-room. With such nudging emphases removed, it is left to the spectator to decide whether he is a maimed eagle or a sick wolf.

Irving Wardle

Further performances tonight and Sunday.



Hans Michael Rehberg as Borkman and Christa Berndt as Ella Renheim

Nils Lofgren
Hammersmith Odéon

In a recent, poorly researched radio interview, Nils Lofgren was asked how he felt at the prospect of stepping out of his role as guitarist in Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band to start a solo project of his own. How revealing that Lofgren's 15-year career incorporating eight solo albums and many major tours should be so easily eclipsed by one year's employment in a backing band.

Revealing, too, was his polite, diplomatic response to such a wilful question, a response which evinced none of the typical egotistical rock star bluster that one might have expected.

His performance at Hammersmith was marked by the same lack of fuss or bombast, as the nimble, diminutive figure bounced through a set of unerringly tasteful soft rock

Rock

songs. The sober-looking band, which included Tom Lofgren, his brother on guitar and keyboards, and Wornell Jones on bass, both malwars since line-ups in the mid-Seventies provided a discreet uncluttered musical backdrop to the guitar and vocals of Lofgren, who was more colourfully dressed in the attire of a Seventies' wandering minstrel, with the familiar irritating bit of cloth dangling from his guitar headstock like an undone shoelace.

Many pleasant rockers such as "Secrets in the Street", "Cry Tough" and "Moonance" (from his pre-solo days in Grin) comprised of thoughtfully composed riffs, melodic singings and elegant guitar solos, were mixed with gentler ballads like "The Sun Hasn't Set on This Boy Yet" and Danny Whitman's "I Don't Want to Talk About It".

The problem was the over-

bearing niceness of it all. Rock music simply is not that polite, and one reason why Lofgren, although a much superior player, is not a performer of Springsteen's stature is that he just does not yell enough or hit the stride of a man who means business. New arrangements of old songs, notably "Back it Up" and "Keith Don't Go" (much slower with a long acoustic introduction) failed to improve on the originals, but the band perked up noticeably when tackling fresh material, particularly "New Holes in Old Shoes", the most solid and imaginative piece he has written in some time.

His mini-trampoline, set at the side of the stage, was used sparingly and seemed a very old trick, not the kind of thing to attract much attention at this stage of the game. What this likeable man needs to do is start banging the table a bit more. Future interviews beware.

David Sinclair

Concerts

Sinfonietta/Berio
Queen Elizabeth
Hall/Radio 3

It has been heartening to find, especially in a year not short of musical anniversaries, the sixtieth birthday of Luciano Berio so warmly and generously honoured.

Three weeks ago he was the featured composer at the Huddersfield Festival; then last night he conducted a celebratory concert given by the London Sinfonietta. Quite properly the occasion was less a retrospective than a chance to catch up with his most recent music, though with him the new always loops back to the old, bringing to light what had previously been implicit or unregarded, and in the process, putting a haze over what might once have been prized.

His *Folk Songs* of 1964, the one Berio classic on the programme, catch this development at an early stage: the original songs from the United States, France, Italy and Western Asia are still fully present, but given sophisticated settings for a colourful instrumental septet. For as long as records are played, the world will be inseparable from the voices of Cathy Berberian, and Susan Bickley's imitation of her accent - warm tone and cooing vibrato in "black is the colour" - was at once uncanny and plausibly inevitable.

In *Voci*, written two years later and alternatively titled *Folk Songs II*, the case is

different. The melodies are all Sicilian, and they have been arranged and developed to create a continuous half-hour concerto for viola and two small orchestras. While the songs communicate melancholy to the music - in which they find themselves, there is a further plainness that comes from the work's objectivity.

It is a tone to be found too in *Corale*, which similarly, but on a smaller scale, has a soloist, here a violinist, rocked like flotsam on an orchestral tide, though this time Berio uses not Sicilian memories but his own. Carlo Chiarappa held the taut, violin line; Aldo Bennici was the eloquent spinner and plucker of musical yarns in *Poet*. The remaining work was absent soloist. This was *Regius*, an eight-minute memorial to Berberian, murmuring through the rich tissues of chamber orchestra and sounding like the accompaniment to a song that now can never be sung.

Paul Griffiths

Online Ensemble
Purcell Room

The disappointment of the evening was the absence of the first London performance of Pawlu Grec's *Tzedak II*, came two works for flute, viola and harp, Bax's *Elegiac Trio* and Debussy's *Sonata*. The first made an endurable postscript to the stimulating first half (more of that later); the second a revelatory companion piece to Villa-Lobos's Quintette Instrumental after the interval.

Both the Debussy and the Villa-Lobos were written in the last two years of each composer's life: what thrills the ear in both is the sense of medium dissolving absolutely into composition. In the Debussy Sonata, a complex and perfect distillation, it seems, from his subconscious, flute, viola and harp dance, balance and reflect with the delicate exuberance of a Dufy painting.

With the added presence of violin and cello (Bridget Wallace and Muriel Daniel) and its lashing Afro-Brazilian rhythms, the Villa-Lobos Quintette took Debussy into the hothouse. There was the same late, raging rhapsody of disquiet in its finale.

Hilary Finch

Radio

Ghostly echoes of reality

It is surprising to be reminded that Arnold Wesker has never until now written a play specifically for radio, but *Bluey* (Radio 3, Wednesday; producer Margaret Wingham) showed as clearly as need be that he is ready and able to make use of its techniques. The play takes place chiefly in the memory of a judge.

High Hawkins (Patrick Stewart), as he sits in his Welsh retreat, rain lashing on the windows, considering his own guilt and innocence. Humanly he has failed in ways that we all fail: an old flame is dying and he does not go and see her; an erstwhile friend attempts to re-establish contact and he ignores him; he never quite gets round to moving house for his old mother and she dies alone.

But lodged beneath all this is the incident that gives the play its name. As a young and struggling student working on a building site, he helped the boys to fish some lead ("bluey" in the trade) and by intention managed to drop a large lump of the stuff on to his friend Ron, the plumber, nearly killing him and scarring him for life. But Hilary never visits him, not in hospital nor afterwards. Much later in life, faced in court with a man of evil and heartless disposition, he finds himself dominated by this creature as if he were the embodiment of his own flawed nature.

Of course this is the synopsis of a play perfectly designed for radio. How easy it is, as here, for Wesker to have his judge imagine Ron's reaction if he were indeed to visit him, and the possibilities are played out: quiet acceptance; embitterment and recrimination, blindness

and misery. But there are dangers too: if you can move around in time and place virtually without limit, then you may find yourself skimming and there was something of that here. In recollection *Bluey* leaves the impression more of a monologue than of a play with characters.

A very good cast (Joe Melia, David Swift, Nicholas McAuliffe, Mary Wimbush - the last, by the way, now celebrating 40 years as a radio actress) did all they could, but were not able to give their parts fully-fleshed identities. They were shadowy creations, like elements in the ghost-story Wesker is reported to have wanted to write. To that extent, of course, they were not unlike the denizens of memory, but for the purposes of this play something stronger was required to give substance to the judge's sense of guilt.

There was also a curious sense of unreality to the first of the two documentaries which have been broadcast these last two Sunday evenings. These have been the outcome of a collaboration with Westdeutscher Rundfunk, Cologne, and the German contribution turned up as *Don't the Time Just Drag* (Radio 4, December 1). This appears to have been written as a play based on interviews collected by its authors, Richard and Lisa Hey, about the desperate life of 15-year-old Claudia who, we were told, had since committed suicide. In the English version by Roy Kift, and as produced by Alec Reid in Bristol, it did its best to sound like a real documentary, but failed as it was bound to.

Of course last Sunday's

Bringing Up Parents (Radio 4; producer Clare Taylor) made that plain. This was a proper documentary by Peter Spence and Kevin Malone about the Greenwich Young People's Theatre and how they put on a play of their own devising in which their own often tortured relationships with their parents would play a prominent part.

An extraordinary story emerged from Leslie (Radio 4, Friday; producer Jock Gallagher in Birmingham). The American Leslie Lemke was born brain-damaged and displays what is called Savant Syndrome. In this condition people who appear otherwise mentally deficient exhibit exceptional ability in a narrow field. Though spastic, Leslie, untaught, seems able to remember and then play on the piano virtually any piece of music.

An infection of the eyes in infancy led to surgical removal and after that he was not expected to live. But thanks to the determination of his deeply religious foster-parents and especially of May, his Yorkshire-born foster-mother, he survived. May is now senile, but her daughters spoke for her. The family, not surprisingly, is inclined to see Leslie's gift - somewhat uncommon I gathered, in the history of the syndrome - as a divine miracle. Certainly the neuropathology remains obscure, but the impression given by Marjorie Lofthouse's programme, with its full account of Leslie's behaviour and many snatches of his rather mechanical playing, was of a condition that has reduced the human brain to the equivalent of a tape recorder.

David Wade

Visit a monument to
human genius as timeless
as the Nile itself.

The timeless beauty and sublime dignity of the Nile have enthralled travellers for generations beyond number.

Anywhere attempting to compete with such splendour would have to be special indeed.

Such a place is the great temple at Luxor.

Magnificently situated on the banks of the Nile, this awesome structure was begun over three millennia ago and remains a monument to the staggering imagination of two kings, Amenophis III and Ramesses II.

The centuries have been unable to diminish the sheer grandeur of the colossal statues of Ramesses, or of the towering red granite obelisk, mockingly defiant of the ravages of time.

Experiences like this come to life on a Swan Hellenic cruise. Each location is doubly enjoyable because we put it in its historical perspective.

After marvelling at all there is to see, you'll enjoy discussing every thing

over a long, cool drink aboard your ship, the Orpheus, with a few like-minded people.

Swan Hellenic cruises depart every two weeks from March to December. Fares from £879 (from £1,004 for cruises to the Red Sea, which include a visit to Luxor, from Salago cover most shore excursions and all gratuities. For full details just post the coupon, call 01-247 7322 or see your ABTA travel agent.

And, if the breathtaking spectacle of the great temple makes you promise yourself a return visit, you won't have to rush.

It'll always be ready when you are.

SWAN
HELLENIC
Part of the growing world of P&O.

A voyage through
the mists of time.



Post to Swan Hellenic Cruises Brochure Service, P.O. Box 8, Liverpool L69 1RR

Name

Address

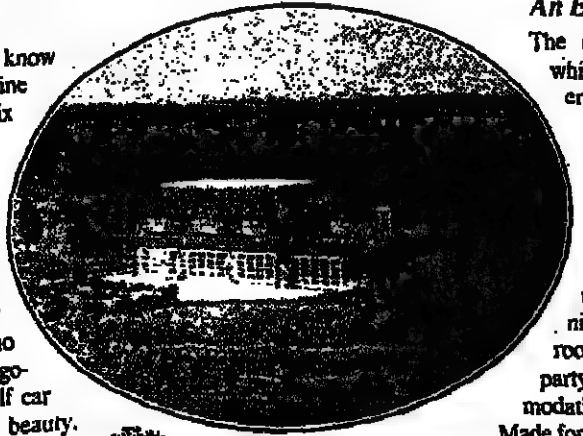
Telephone

Opening on December 17!
Old Thorns new Clubhouse, Hotel & Restaurant

Enjoy golfing at Old Thorns like you'd enjoy a holiday on a country estate

A Challenging Course!

Rare is the golfer who doesn't know the Old Thorns Golf Course. A fine 18-hole championship course: six holes where water comes into play, six traversing level fairways, six over rolling, contoured land. Winding their way through a natural woodland of towering oaks and pine trees. A testing course made for enjoyment by the golfer who loves the game. Now you can negotiate this famous course on a golf car and take time to appreciate its beauty.



An Exciting New Clubhouse!

The difference is in the clubhouse, which opens on December 17. Modern, comfortable, yet retaining the reassuring atmosphere of the old. Restaurants that offer fine English cuisine, delicate French dishes or an exotic Japanese menu. With Japanese-style bath, shiatsu massage, indoor swimming pool, and sauna. For overnight golfers, hotel with 30 guest rooms, 61 beds. And for groups, party/conference rooms with accommodations for up to 150 persons. Made for a perfect golfing holiday!

OLD THORNS
GOLF COURSE, HOTEL & RESTAURANTS

Longmoor Road, Liphook, Hampshire, United Kingdom. KOSAIDO Phone: (0428) 724555. Telex: 858293 GOLF UK.

An exhibition about an historic nation that will amaze, excite, educate and entertain

Sea Finland

Unit 5 Jan. National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, Tel. 01-555 4022. Mon-Fri 10.00-5.00, Sat 10.00-7.00, Sun 14.00-7.00

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

No.	Company	1985 High	1985 Low
INDUSTRIALS S-Z			
1	Stanchely	415	405
2	Tinsford House	125	120
3	Wolacley-Hughes	125	120
4	Staloh	415	405
5	Wood (SW)	125	120
6	Wagon Ind	125	120
7	Sidlaw	125	120
8	TSL Thermal	125	120
9	Triplex	125	120
10	TWT	125	120
ELECTRICALS			
11	IREL	115	110
12	Auto Sec	115	110
13	Brown Everet Kent	115	110
14	First Castle Elec	115	110
15	Umtech	115	110
16	Crystallite	115	110
17	NEWCAP	115	110
18	CAP Gup	115	110
19	Glowacore	115	110
20	Chabude	115	110
INDUSTRIALS A-D			
21	Brooks Tool	115	110
22	Burgum	115	110
23	De La Rue	115	110
24	Black Arrow	115	110
25	Boons	115	110
26	Delta	115	110
27	Diplocom	115	110
28	Industriale	115	110
29	Diamondcom Int	115	110
30	Spacpak	115	110
INDUSTRIALS L-R			
31	Pearson	115	110
32	Pilkington	115	110
33	Pearson	115	110
34	Laird	115	110
35	Ransome Sims	115	110
36	Minicore	115	110
37	Manleycraft Gils	115	110
38	Lip	115	110
39	Marshall's Univ	115	110
40	Restmor	115	110
© Times Newspapers Limited. Your Daily Total			

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £40,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

BRITISH FUNDS

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chge	Yld	P/E
115	110	British Telecom	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Gas	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Petroleum	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chge	Yld	P/E
115	110	British Telecom	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Gas	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Petroleum	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chge	Yld	P/E
115	110	British Telecom	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Gas	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Petroleum	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chge	Yld	P/E
115	110	British Telecom	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Gas	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Petroleum	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110

UNDATED

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chge	Yld	P/E
115	110	British Telecom	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Gas	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Petroleum	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110

INDEX-LINKED

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chge	Yld	P/E
115	110	British Telecom	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Gas	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Petroleum	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110

BREWERIES

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chge	Yld	P/E
115	110	British Telecom	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Gas	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Petroleum	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chge	Yld	P/E
115	110	British Telecom	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Gas	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Petroleum	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110

ELECTRICALS

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chge	Yld	P/E
115	110	British Telecom	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Gas	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Petroleum	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Quiet trading

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 9. Dealings End, Dec 20. Contango Day, Dec 23. Settlement Day, Jan 6.
 \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1985 High Low Company Price Chge Yld P/E

115	110	British Telecom	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Gas	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Petroleum	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110

BUILDING AND ROADS

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chge	Yld	P/E
115	110	British Telecom	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Gas	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Petroleum	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110

FINANCE AND LAND

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chge	Yld	P/E
115	110	British Telecom	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Gas	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Petroleum	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110

FOODS

1985 High	1985 Low	Company	Price	Chge	Yld	P/E
115	110	British Telecom	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Gas	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Petroleum	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110
115	110	British Airways	115	110	115	110

CINEMAS AND TV							
120	120	Anglo TV 'A'	181	•	11.4	9.2	15.0
74	26	Channel	90	•	•	•	•
176	118	HTV NW	176	•	•	•	•
301	117	INT	200	•	20.5	8.0	10.0
186	129	Scott TV 'A'	187	•	12.7	6.8	7.0
153	110	TYS NW	151	•	•	•	•
23	25	TSTW	31	•	2.4	7.9	8.0

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Why Reagan will bless the giants' wedding day

The agreed \$4.4 billion takeover of RCA by America's General Electric is a spectacular example of the shift in US anti-trust policy.

No longer is bigness, *per se*, considered bad as it was a decade ago. Indeed, the proposed marriage of these two communications giants, the biggest non-oil merger in US history, is unlikely to encounter significant opposition.

There are indications, for example, that the merger has already been given the approval nod, although not an official one, from the two primary anti-trust regulatory agencies. In addition, the Reagan administration itself has been pressing vigorously over the past year for additional relaxation of US anti-trust laws.

The rationale is that American companies must be allowed to grow bigger, and more concentrated in order to compete more effectively with Japanese and European companies.

Last week, an important US cabinet council on economic and trade policy recommended a virtual exemption from anti-trust laws for US companies suffering from foreign competition. This represents a fundamental shift in US policy, reflected also in plans for government and industry to work together to make US companies more competitive on a global basis.

The emphasis on "global" competition is the important one, especially in the case of the proposed GE-RCA merger. Both companies are active, and indeed compete with each other in the fields of defence, communications, and consumer products. Both are big enough, alone, to command substantial bargaining powers in international markets.

Taken together, they represent a colossus which may become a model for other US companies.

Yet, despite the awesome size, and potential impact of the proposed deal, it was put together in the simplest way, over a drink in the Manhattan apartment of investment banker, Felix Rohatyn, who introduced John F. Welch, GE's chairman, to Thomson F. Bradshaw, his counterpart at RCA.

The two men had never met, despite their many years in similar businesses. When they did, there was a meeting of the minds, which made it possible for Welch to move forward with his secret ambition. In such fashion, using the time-honoured skills of a matchmaker, are lasting marriages made.

Opec on the cliff's edge and trembling

Peter Holmes, the chairman of "Shell" Transport and Trading, is not a man to mince words. In the course of an elegant review of events in the world oil market this week, he concluded that the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries was "on a cliff's edge". If Opec tumbles over that edge, he believes, oil prices will fall sharply, and as many as four member-countries would face bankruptcy.

Opec declared this week that it would be seeking to maintain its share of the market at the expense of non-members. The biggest producer outside Opec is the US, but it exports virtually no oil and therefore is not regarded as a direct threat to Opec's interests. Britain and Norway are seen as the villains, even though their oil exports have not increased as rapidly as those of certain other countries.

The effect of the Opec declaration was to send oil and currency markets into frenzy. Although the frenzy appears to have abated, it has created shock waves of uncertainty which will last well into next year.

Mr Holmes' leitmotiv that these developments will cause the strong to grow stronger and the weak weaker. That, he argues, will be as true of oil companies as of other industries.

Shell can look upon such a trend with equanimity. It is lowly geared financially and - widely spread commercially. The impact of lower oil prices should be broadly neutral. Borrowings, as in any potential squeeze, will be the touchstone. Those who have them in large quantities, like Texaco and Mobil, Mexico and Nigeria, will face grave difficulties in a year when demand at best is expected to be flat.

It is easy to be wise with hindsight, harder to prescribe a remedy for such a corrosive illness. Mr Holmes reaches out for the equivalent of the eighteenth-century cholera cure, immersion in boiling water. His boiling water would be an oil price of \$12 a barrel, half the present level, to stimulate demand. It would certainly bring the agony to a head more quickly.

Bond dealers park their free wheels

After many years of comfortable obscurity, the Association of International Bond Dealers has been thrust reluctantly into the limelight. Regulation has begun to catch up with the world's most free-wheeling market, and it has concentrated the minds of bond dealers wonderfully.

Just six days before publication of the Financial Services Bill, an extraordinary general meeting of the AIBD, yesterday took a number of decisions which will go down well at the offices of the Securities and Investments Board, for whom bond-dealing has been a thorny problem.

The AIBD will speed up the introduction of a screen price quotation service which will make bond prices more clear-cut. The sometimes dubious pricing in the bond market - practices which have caused divisions between issuers, primary dealers, market makers and operators in the grey market in bonds - have increasingly worried the authorities. A public and unambiguous pricing display will help calm the regulators.

At the same meeting in London the dealers agreed to give more powers to their board - obviating a need for a full meeting to take any serious decision - and indirectly opened the way to dealing by members in international equities. The arbitration procedure, which has proved laborious and a lawyer's delight, is also to be improved.

After these overdue reforms, the way should be clear for the AIBD to secure recognition by the SIB as an overseas exchange. This is a somewhat odd category which circumstances have thrust upon the board, it does at least mean that some control is exercised by the London authorities over business conducted in London from abroad.

By reforming themselves, albeit under official pressure, the bond dealers have given a needed fillip to self-regulation and have demonstrated a commitment to London as a marketplace. That must be a relief to the SIB. By the same token, however, the free-wheeling days are over.

Inflation rate reaches 5.5% after first increase since May

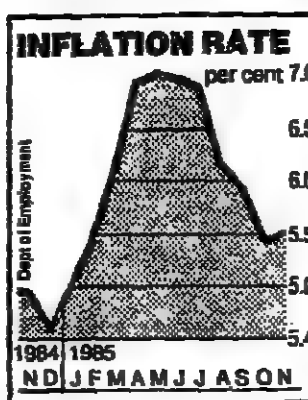
By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

The rate of inflation edged up to 5.5 per cent last month, and a further increase is expected this month. The Government remains confident that inflation will resume its decline next year.

The index of retail prices was 378.4 (January 1974 = 100) in November, a rise of 0.3 per cent from the level of 377.1 in October.

There were increases in telephone charges, bread and coal prices. Cigarettes rose by 2p a packet, and several fresh vegetables were up in price. Tomatoes and cauliflower rose by 4.5p a lb.

There were partly offset by price falls for petrol - down by 1.7p a gallon to an average of 191.9p for four star. Tea prices fell by 1p per 125 gram packet, and have dropped by 10 per cent this year. There were some supermarket pre-Christmas discounts on alcoholic drinks,



INFLATION RATE per cent

The 5.5 per cent rate last month compared with 5.4 per cent in October, the first upturn in inflation since May. A further upturn, to around 5.8 per cent, is likely when the December figures are published in a month's time.

This is because there was a fall of 0.1 per cent in the retail prices index in December last year, because of a reduction in the mortgage rate and an unusual fall in seasonal food prices. This month, assuming a rise of 0.2 per cent or 0.3 per cent in the index, the 12-month rate will turn up to 5.8 or 5.9 per cent.

However, the Government's confidence in a declining rate, at least in the first half of next year, appears to be justified. The Treasury expects the rate to drop to about 3 per cent by the middle of the year and 3.75 per cent by the end. Over the past six months, retail prices have risen just 0.7 per cent, the smallest six-month rise since October 1967.

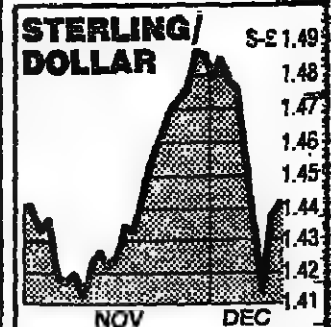
Even so, there is clearly a risk of higher inflation later next year if the pound, pressed by lower oil prices, begins to slide again. In this case, fast growing labour costs would no longer be offset by sharply lower prices for imported raw materials and fuel.

Figures released earlier this week showed that, even with these lower material prices, manufacturing industry raised its prices by 0.4 per cent last month, the biggest monthly rise since April.

The latest international comparisons show Britain's inflation rate to be above both the average within the European Community, and the Western industrialized countries taken as a whole.

Compared with Britain's rate of 5.5 per cent, the latest EEC average, for October, is 4.9 per cent, and that for the countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 4.3 per cent.

IN BRIEF Pound holds its ground



Sterling held its ground yesterday as oil prices steadied, and the dollar gained when the foreign exchange markets decided that a cut in the United States discount rate was now imminent. The pound eased down by 38 points to \$1.47, and was later quoted in New York at \$1.4350. However, the sterling index rose 0.1 to 78.7.

The pound ended with its losses on the week to trimmed to 4 cents against the dollar. It fell against the mark, and 2.4 on the sterling index.

The dollar was helped yesterday by announcements of a 0.4 per cent rise in industrial production, a 0.6 per cent rise in producer prices in November, and a 0.5 per cent October rise in business inventories. These together with overnight news of a strong rise in the M1 measure of money supply, dampened hopes of a discount rate cut. The dollar edged up to DM2.52.

Greene King up

Greene King, the brewery company, lifted profits from £3.6 million to £4.39 million before tax in the six months to October 27. Turnover was up from £39.7 million to £43.4 million and the interim dividend is up from 1.54p to 1.71p.

The offer for sale of 2.4 million shares in Cierwynn Streets, the advertising and public relations company, was oversubscribed 24 times. Applications for up to 7,000 shares will be allocated by weighted ballot and the larger ones will be restricted pro rata.

Forties stake

Berkeley Exploration and Production is to buy a 0.25 per cent interest in the Forties Field from Texaco for \$8.25 million (£5.7 million) in shares and cash. Texaco will sell the shares it receives to Guinness Mahon, advisers to Berkeley, who plans to offer them in an effective rights issue to shareholders.

Mercantile to reduce US interests

By William Kay
City Editor

Mercantile House Holdings, the broking and fund management group, is planning to cut substantially its presence in New York, at least for the time being.

Yesterday the company was forced by rumours on Wall Street to rush out a statement admitting that it was negotiating to sell approximately 80 per cent of the broker, Oppenheimer and Co., and Oppenheimer Capital Corporation, the acquisitions and mergers firm, to a US management.

There would include Oppenheimer Government Securities and Oppenheimer Properties, but exclude the Oppenheimer fund management operations which have been Mercantile's principal earner in the United States recently.

But Mr John Barkshire, Mercantile's chairman, said that he intended to buy a US fixed-interest securities house "in the next year or two".

He explained: "The decision to sell has been entirely amicable. It was a mutual recognition of the direction in which the businesses were going. They have improved and changed to the point where they have less relevance to Mercantile House."

A fixed-interest house would fit in better with the group's London securities operation based on the stockbroker, Laing & Cruickshank. The money released by the deal will be used to give that operation more capital backing.

Mercantile bought Oppenheimer in 1982 for £91 million. Mr Barkshire was unable to give any indication of the likely price to be obtained for control of Opec and Opecap, whose volatile earnings have had an unsettling impact on Mercantile's stock market rating. Its shares rose 23p to 297p on the news. The deal should be completed by Christmas.

Laing & Cruickshank is expected to announce on Monday that it has acquired another British stockbroker.

Home loans demand sets £2.6bn record

By Lawrence Lever

Demand for mortgage finance from the building societies reached a record last month, according to figures from the Building Societies Association yesterday.

Gross advances to homeowners were £2,662 million, a record level. Net advances of £1,553 million, representing the gross advances less repayments of principal, were also the highest ever monthly amount. Net new commitments, the amount pledged by the societies for new home loans, were the second highest ever at £2,741 million.

The influx of funds into the building societies from retail sources was, however, adversely affected by seasonal factors and the Laura Ashley flotation. Gross receipts were £3,224 million, down £283 million on the previous month, but an increase of more than £390 million on November last year. Not receipts after deducting withdrawals from investors, came to £638 million. Although that was £158 million less than in October it was more than £250 million above the November 1984 figure, which was depressed by the British Telecom flotation.

Mr Richard Weir, secretary-general of the BSA, said yesterday that the societies did relatively well to attract the level of retail receipts they had done in view of the Laura Ashley and seasonal factors.

"The outlook for December is uncertain because of the effects of the Cable and Wireless issue, but inflow in the first week of the month was satisfactory". It is likely that the December figures will also receive a boost, from funds withdrawn for the Laura Ashley issue being returned to their accounts by subscribers who were allocated no shares.



Richard Weir: "Outlook for December uncertain".

Plessey to extend Euro link

By Jeremy Warner
Business Correspondent

Plessey yesterday announced the extension of a collaborative agreement with Siemens of Germany, Alcatel of France and Italtel of Italy, to cover development work in the field of public telephone exchanges.

Plessey is fighting a hostile £1.18 million takeover bid from GEC and argues that international collaboration of this kind will provide it with a viable independent future.

The announcement was regarded as of no underlying technological significance by GEC.

But Sir John Clark, Plessey's chairman, said: "This is exactly the sort of international collaboration that British telecommunications companies need to foster." The extension of the agreement between the European companies covers three areas: software tools, ISDN subscriber line interfaces and certain aspects of broadband networks.

Sir John said that the agreement could eventually lead to an European collaboration on development of the next generation of public switching equipment, System 2,000.

Britannia Arrow switch queried

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Britannia Arrow yesterday forecast pre-tax profits of £19.5 million and a "total" profit of £27 million for the year to December 31 as part of its defence against the £215 million bid from Guinness Peat Group.

The total profit figure includes extraordinary items which Britannia has never before included in its profit figures. GPG immediately complained about the change in

accounting methods, but Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank advising Britannia, claimed that it was necessary to enable a direct comparison with GPG's profits.

Britannia's usual method of calculating profits was more conservative than GPG's and would give a false impression of the company's performance, Lazard said.

But the Takeover Panel has

told Britannia to send a clarification of the total profit figure to its shareholders. It shows extraordinary items of £7.5 million and a tax charge of £4.9 million.

The total profit forecast is 32 per cent up on the similar figure for last year and gives total earnings per share of 1.9p. The pre-tax profit of £19.5 million is up 38 per cent of last year, giving earnings per share of 9p.

Chief executive leaves GLEB to be consultant

By Teresa Poole

The chief executive of the Greater London Enterprise Board, London's job-creation agency, has resigned to pursue a career as an industrial consultant in Europe. Mr Alan McGarvey's resignation from his £36,000-a-year job takes effect from the end of January, two months before the abolition of the Greater London Council which finances GLEB.

Mr McGarvey will receive an undisclosed settlement according to the terms of his contract. He will continue to be associated with GLEB and for two months will work on a full-time consultancy basis.

Mr McGarvey, has been the chief executive of GLEB since it started operating in November 1982.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

● PHILIP HARRIS (HOLDINGS): For the half-year to September 30 with figures in £000, turnover was 16,175 (£13,045), while the pre-tax profit was 411 (£292). Earnings per share were 7.6p (4.9p). An interim dividend of 3.75 (3.4p) is being paid.

● BIRMINGHAM & DISTRICT INVESTMENT TRUST: For the half-year to September 30, with figures in £000, investment income was 1,306 (£1,184), while the pre-tax

dividend of 2p making 3.25p (same) is being paid.

● MCCABE RADIO: For the year to September 30 with figures in £000, turnover was 4,262 (£4,330), while the pre-tax profit was 484 (£465). Earnings per "A" ordinary share were 5.4p (4.4p) and non-voting shares 2.7p (2.2p). A final dividend of 1.125p making a total of 2p (1.875p) on non-voting shares and a final 2.25p making 4p (3.75p) on "A" shares is being paid.

● RADIO CLYDE: For the year to September 30 with figures in £000, turnover was 4,067 (£5,144), while the pre-tax profit was 346 (£64). Earnings per share were 3.4p (6.7p). A final

dividend of 1.125p making a total of 2p (1.875p) on non-voting shares and a final 2.25p making 4p (3.75p) on "A" shares is being paid.

● RADIO CLYDE: For the year to September 30 with figures in £000, turnover was 4,067 (£5,144), while the pre-tax profit was 346 (£64). Earnings per share were 3.4p (6.7p). A final

dividend of 1.125p making a total of 2p (1.875p) on non-voting shares and a final 2.25p making 4p (3.75p) on "A" shares is being paid.

● RADIO CLYDE: For the year to September 30 with figures in £000, turnover was 4,067 (£5,144), while the pre-tax profit was 346 (£64). Earnings per share were 3.4p (6.7p). A final

dividend of 1.125p making a total of 2p (1.875p) on non-voting shares and a final 2.25p making 4p (3.75p) on "A" shares is being paid.

● RADIO CLYDE: For the year to September 30 with figures in £000, turnover was 4,067 (£5,144), while the pre-tax profit was 346 (£64). Earnings per share were 3.4p (6.7p). A final

dividend of 1.125p making a total of 2p (1.875p) on non-voting shares and a final 2.25p making 4p (3.75p) on "A" shares is being paid.

Coffee export quotas raised

A week of hectic activity in the coffee market culminated yesterday in the International Coffee Organisation lifting the export quotas of producing members by 3 million bags to 63 million for 1985/86. A bag is 60 kilograms.

If the ICO's indicator price remains above 150.08 cents a pound for the next 45 market days all quotas will be suspended and a free market in coffee will prevail.

The quota increase comes after several weeks of strongly rising coffee prices, with the pace accelerating sharply at the beginning of this week after it became clear that drought had badly damaged the Brazilian crop. Trade sources put the 1986/87 Brazilian crop at between 13 million and 16 million bags, or half its normal size.

STOCK MARKETS		MAIN PRICE CHANGES		CURRENCIES	
FT Ind Ord	1105.9 (+1.1)	RISER:		London:	
FT All Share	668.76 (+1.11)	Adam Leisure	10.50p +2.50p	E: \$1.4372 (-0.0038)	
FT Govt Securities	83.15 (-0.03)	Wellman	18p +2.50p	E: DM 2.8244 (+0.0028)	
FT-SE 100	1381.4 (+2.9)	ICC Oil Services	6.50p +1p	E: SwFr 3.0287 (+0.0011)	
Bargains	23,083	Unigroup	81p +11p	E: FFf 11.0884 (+0.0176)	
Datasearch USM	105.80 (+0.29)	Microtec	28p +5p	E: Yen 291.15 (+0.25)	
New York		Sound Diffusion	\$1.50p +3.50p	E: Index 78.7 (+0.1)	
Dow Jones	1828.02 (+14.78)	DBE Technology	53p +5p	New York:	
Tokyo		Mercantile House	295p +25p	E: \$1.4370	
Nikkei Dow	13107.98 (+57.70)	Woodhead Jones	37p +8p	E: DM 2.8210	
Hong Kong		Automotive Prod	120p +8p	S: Index 127.1 (+0.2)	
Hang Seng	1735.58 (-4.82)	Microgen Hidge	340p +25p	ECU 2.804150	
Amsterdam Gen	238.5 (+2.4)	Richards	41p +5p	SDR 20.758377	
Sydney: AO	978.0 (-1.8)	Parkland Text A	102p +7p		
Frankfurt		Comb Tech Corp	8p +0.50p		
Commerzbank	1811.2 (+28.9)	Martheath	53p +3p		
Bremen		Control Seas	78p +1p		
Berlin CAC	877.01 (+11.94)	Lincoln Kilgour	169p +10p		
Paris CAC	250.3 (+2.4)	Bellay C. H.	28.75p +1.50p		
Zurich		Lex Service	295p +15p		
SKA General	481.7 (-1.3)	Dunton Group	20p +1p		
		McKachnie Bros	181p +11p		
		Pagler-Hattersley	358p +15p		
		Parsones Sims	113p +5p		
		FALLS:			
		Brown Mathew	410p -150p		
		Common Brothers	56p -1.50p		
		Fergabrook	27p -5p		
		Canvemoor	50p -5p		

WHAT A YEAR IN EUROPE!

1985 has been a rewarding year for investment in Europe. Our optimism has been justified. Over the 12 months to the 1st December 1985 the Oppenheimer European Growth Trust was up 56.4%.*

For the fourth consecutive month it is the top performing fund in its sector over a year. This sustained performance has attracted a lot of interest as can be seen from the steady growth in fund size.

£3.2m	£11.5m	£17.0m
1st October 1985	1st November 1985	1st December 1985

The Trust continues to be actively managed. For the latest portfolio changes contact our dealers on **01-236 3885** (6 lines)

*Figure is offer to bid with net income reinvested 1/12/84 - 1/12/85. Source: "Planned Savings".

MERCANTILE HOUSE GROUP
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Calm was restored to currency markets after the turmoil created early this week by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' decision to defend its share of the oil market.

Sterling, having recovered on Thursday more than half of the 5 cents fall to the dollar suffered over the previous two sessions, was left to drift aimlessly.

The pound closed with a loss of 38 points to the dollar at 1.4372, having reached 1.4455 in the early stages.

The mark slipped from 2.5145 to 2.5200, Swiss francs declined from 2.0200 to 2.0175, and French francs cheapened from 7.6950 to 7.7250. The yen softened from 202.00 to 202.50 in dollar terms.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4372-1.4375
Amsterdam 1.4372-1.4375	Brussels 1.4372-1.4375
Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375	Copenhagen 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375

OTHER STERLING RATES

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4372-1.4375
Amsterdam 1.4372-1.4375	Brussels 1.4372-1.4375
Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375	Copenhagen 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Traders showed little inclination to disturb existing positions as the end of the week approached. If anything, rates were a shade easier, but at surface level little changed.

Interbank term deposits attracted few operators, while sterling certificates of deposit saw only tidying-up after the turbulence of the early part of the week.

EURO-CURRENCY DEPOSITS %

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4372-1.4375
Amsterdam 1.4372-1.4375	Brussels 1.4372-1.4375
Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375	Copenhagen 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375

TREASURY BILL TENDER

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4372-1.4375
Amsterdam 1.4372-1.4375	Brussels 1.4372-1.4375
Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375	Copenhagen 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4372-1.4375
Amsterdam 1.4372-1.4375	Brussels 1.4372-1.4375
Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375	Copenhagen 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375

COMMODITIES

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4372-1.4375
Amsterdam 1.4372-1.4375	Brussels 1.4372-1.4375
Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375	Copenhagen 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375

STANDARD CATHODES

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4372-1.4375
Amsterdam 1.4372-1.4375	Brussels 1.4372-1.4375
Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375	Copenhagen 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375

COFFEE

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4372-1.4375
Amsterdam 1.4372-1.4375	Brussels 1.4372-1.4375
Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375	Copenhagen 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375

WALL STREET

New York (Agencies) - Prices advanced in active trading of New York Stock Exchange issues.

The Dow Jones industrial average, which eased 0.46 to 1511.24 on Thursday, was up 6.08 to 1517.31 shortly after the market opened.

Advances led declines by 505 to 321 among the 1,249 issues crossing the New York Stock Exchange tape.

The Commerce department reported US producer prices rose 0.8 per cent in November.

WALL STREET

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4372-1.4375
Amsterdam 1.4372-1.4375	Brussels 1.4372-1.4375
Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375	Copenhagen 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4372-1.4375
Amsterdam 1.4372-1.4375	Brussels 1.4372-1.4375
Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375	Copenhagen 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4372-1.4375
Amsterdam 1.4372-1.4375	Brussels 1.4372-1.4375
Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375	Copenhagen 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4372-1.4375
Amsterdam 1.4372-1.4375	Brussels 1.4372-1.4375
Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375	Copenhagen 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375

APPOINTMENTS

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4372-1.4375
Amsterdam 1.4372-1.4375	Brussels 1.4372-1.4375
Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375	Copenhagen 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375

MEAT AND LIVESTOCK

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4372-1.4375
Amsterdam 1.4372-1.4375	Brussels 1.4372-1.4375
Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375	Copenhagen 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375

STANDARD CATHODES

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4372-1.4375
Amsterdam 1.4372-1.4375	Brussels 1.4372-1.4375
Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375	Copenhagen 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375

COFFEE

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4372-1.4375
Amsterdam 1.4372-1.4375	Brussels 1.4372-1.4375
Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375	Copenhagen 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375

COMPANY NEWS

IN BRIEF

● **CONTINUOUS STATIONERY** - For the half-year to September 30 with figures in 000, turnover was 2,063 (1,799), while the pretax profit was 14 (57 loss). Earnings per share were 0.17p (loss 1.14p). An interim dividend of 0.45p (same) is being paid.

● **TECHNOLOGY** - For the half-year to October 4, with figures in 000, turnover was 1,571 (1,587), while the pretax loss was 28 (174 profit). Losses per share were 0.2p (1.1p earnings). No interim dividend is being paid.

● **JONAS WOODHEAD & SONS** - For the half-year to September 30 with figures in 000, turnover was 2,743 (30,333), while the pretax profit was 540 (325 loss). Earnings per share were 2.5p (2.7 loss). The board has decided not to pay an interim dividend of 1.1p (same) is being paid on April 7.

● **GIBBS M&W** - For the half-year to September 30, with figures in 000, turnover was 6,875 (8,337.1), while the pretax profit was 459.9 (394.4). Earnings per share were 1.3p (1.2p). An interim dividend of 1.1p (same) is being paid on April 7.

● **UNIGROUP** - For the half-year to October 31, with figures in 000, turnover was 3,255 (1,203), while the pretax profit was 213 (37). Earnings per share were 2.91p (0.69p). No interim dividend is being paid.

● **ERICKSON GOLD MINES** - The company is to change its name to T. J. Erickson Resources following shareholders' approval at a special meeting in Vancouver.

● **RHP GROUP** - For the 53 weeks to October 4 with figures in 000, turnover was 128,722 (105,700), while the pretax profit was 1,072 (623.3). Earnings per share were 17.1p (11.1p). A final dividend of 2.6p (1.75p) is being paid on February 14 making a total of 4.25p (3p).

● **WHESCO** - For the year to September 28 with figures in 000, turnover was 99,581 (99,679), while the pretax profit was 4,025 (4,138). Earnings per share were 12.7p (12.8p). A final dividend of 3p (3p) making a total of 5.5p (5.3p) is being paid on September 28.

● **INVESTMENT** - Scottish Eastern Investments Trust, managed by Martin Currie, is to make up to £30 million available to finance management buyouts arranged by Cando Investments. This money will be used to finance buyouts arranged by Cando where sums of less than £10 million (excluding bank finance) are required.

● **ELDONDOX** - For the year to September 30 with figures in 000, turnover was 26,107 (23,301), while the pretax profit was 2,779 (2,345). Earnings per share were 20.5p (17.3p). A final dividend of 4.5p (4.5p) is being paid.

● **ARGUS PRESS HOLDINGS** - For the half-year to September 30 with figures in 000, turnover was 63,482 (45,757), while the pretax profit was 4,330 (3,044). Earnings per share were 12.1p (8.1p) on increased capital (23.08p on old capital). An interim dividend of 4p (4.5p) is being paid.

● **ARGUS PRESS GROUP** - For the half-year to September 30 with figures in 000, turnover was 24,417 (23,153), while the pretax profit was 2,211 (1,790). Earnings per share (excluding extraordinary items) were 39.12 (6.59p). An interim dividend of 30p (17p) is being paid.

COMPANY NEWS

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4372-1.4375
Amsterdam 1.4372-1.4375	Brussels 1.4372-1.4375
Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375	Copenhagen 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375

COMPANY NEWS

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4372-1.4375
Amsterdam 1.4372-1.4375	Brussels 1.4372-1.4375
Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375	Copenhagen 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375

COMPANY NEWS

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4372-1.4375
Amsterdam 1.4372-1.4375	Brussels 1.4372-1.4375
Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375	Copenhagen 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375

COMPANY NEWS

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4372-1.4375
Amsterdam 1.4372-1.4375	Brussels 1.4372-1.4375
Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375	Copenhagen 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375

COMPANY NEWS

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4372-1.4375
Amsterdam 1.4372-1.4375	Brussels 1.4372-1.4375
Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375	Copenhagen 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375

COMPANY NEWS

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4372-1.4375
Amsterdam 1.4372-1.4375	Brussels 1.4372-1.4375
Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375	Copenhagen 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375
Helsinki 1.4372-1.4375	Toronto 1.4372-1.4375
Oslo 1.4372-1.4375	Stockholm 1.4372-1.4375

COMPANY NEWS

Market rates	Market rates
New York 1.4372-1.4375	London 1.4372-1.4375
Frankfurt 1.4372-1.4375	Paris 1.4372-1.4375
Geneva 1.4372-1.4375	Basle 1.4

NEWS BACKGROUND

Old guard overtaken by the tide of change

In April this year the *Daily Telegraph* owners declared their intention to transform its antiquated operations and make a desperate plunge into new technology and twenty-first century survival. Since then the pace of change has been faster than the newspaper's conservative owners could ever have imagined.

Yesterday Lord Hartwell, the autocratic 74-year-old chairman of The *Daily Telegraph*, had to concede defeat publicly. Losses at the newspaper publishing company have been escalating at such a rate that he has been forced to bow to mounting pressure from the bankers and relinquish control of the family business.

The new owner is Mr Conrad Black, a Canadian businessman. Six months ago he was hardly known in Britain, but the meagre price at which he has succeeded in securing the potentially hugely profitable newspaper is already enhancing his Canadian reputation as one of the sharpest financial operators in North America.

Mr Black will have paid around £30 million for just over half of the shares in The *Daily Telegraph*. Although the company has huge debts, it also has assets which include some £15 million of Reuters shares and a stake in the lucrative redevelopment of the paper's Fleet Street printing works.

There is enormous scope for turning the paper's £150 million annual turnover into profit once the transfer to new printing processes is complete. Hence the conviction that Mr Black has got a bargain and the appalled reaction from Lord Hartwell's second son, Mr Nicholas Berry, who feels that his heritage has been sold too cheaply.

Within hours of winning control of the *Telegraph*, Mr Black is already making changes with the appointment of Mr Andrew Knight as chief executive. The 46-year-old editor of *The Economist* is 26 years younger than the *Telegraph's* present editor, Mr William Deedes, and is a long-standing friend of Mr Black.

More changes will undoubtedly follow, but those close to Mr Black believe that he will be content to install his own choice of management at the *Telegraph* and let them do the job, rather than constantly intervene himself. He has little respect for journalists in general, having

Daily Telegraph



'The working press is a very degenerate group'

- CONRAD BLACK (PICTURED LEFT)

once remarked: "My experience of the working press is that they are a very degenerate group. There is a terrible incidence of alcoholism and drug abuse." But those were not the problems which catapulted the *Telegraph* into decline; rather it was the reluctance of Lord Hartwell and his coterie of ageing colleagues to accept the need for change. The *Daily Telegraph* had a huge circulation among the middle classes which made it a must for advertisers. Although that circulation has declined steadily over the last five years, the proprietors failed to appreciate the need to alter their strategy and capture a part of the younger market. Instead, they contented themselves with the knowledge that their sale was virtually the same as those of *The Times*, *Guardian* and *Financial Times* combined.

The company lost money in the three years to March 1983, then moved into profit before, in the following nine months, running up a trading loss of more than £2 million. That was softened, however, by the bonus which the flotation of Reuters bestowed upon most of Fleet Street. Sale of some of its Reuters shares brought the *Telegraph* more than £7 million before the end of 1984.

The Reuters windfall spurred the revolution that was already beginning in Fleet Street, with papers moving to new, high technology plants and reducing their manning levels. By the spring of this year Lord Hartwell had to accept that if he did not move soon the *Telegraph* would be in danger.

He embarked on an ambitious plan to move the

printing processes to the Isle of Dogs in a £100 million rejuvenation programme, but the newspaper did not have the cash to fund it.

So the *Telegraph* arranged loan and lease capital of £80 million with a group of banks led by Security Pacific, and also did the previously unthinkable in deciding to sell some shares to raise around £30 million. Two of the most prestigious houses in the City, N M Rothschild and the stockbroker, Cazeno, were appointed to drum up the money but the *Telegraph* did not make their task particularly easy. In view of many city institutions who looked at the document and refused to subscribe, too much was being left to chance and the old guard.

Eventually the Rothschild chairman, Mr Evelyn Rothschild, decided that his friend, Mr Conrad Black, should be approached. Mr Black, who has built himself a business valued at around \$100 million, realized that he had the upper hand.

He had long wanted to be a real press baron, having built up his own chain of around 20 local papers. He agreed to put up £10 million for 14 per cent of the *Telegraph*, but did so on terms which ensured that he would be in control. Not only did he get the Berry family to agree that they sell their shares he should have first option, but he also insisted they waive any future rights issue shares in his favour. From that moment in June, it was inevitable that the *Telegraph* would soon change hands.

Patience Wheatcroft

Directors in Ellerman Lines buyer consortium

By Teresa Poole

A consortium of management and 10 financial institutions has bought the Ellerman Lines container shipping company from Ellerman Holdings, which is controlled by the hotel-owning Barclay Brothers. The sale price is not being disclosed.

Ellerman Lines has a fleet of 18 wholly or part-owned ships and worldwide interests in container liner services to Africa, the Gulf, Australasia, Europe and the Far East. The buy-out, led by Charterhouse Development, does not include the South African-based interests which are being retained by Ellerman Holdings. The net asset value of the businesses being bought is £18 million.

The Barclay Brothers acquired the shipping company two years ago as part of a £48 million package which included the Cameron and Tollermeade & Cobbold breweries and a travel business.

The fleet has since been re-registered in the Isle of Man, leading to annual savings of £1 million. In 1984 the business, including South Africa, showed a turn-around to net profits of £3 million from net losses of £1.7 million the previous year. Turnover was £101 million.

All the directors of Ellerman Lines have taken part in the buy-out and their total stake is described as significant. Over the next five years this stake could double, depending on the company's results, but will not rise above 50 per cent.

A stock market flotation is planned, but not for at least two years. Next year is expected to be a very difficult year for the container industry because of worldwide over-tonnage, but the chairman, Mr Anthony Cooke, does not expect a sharp dip in Ellerman Lines' profits.

Buyout talks at Brookside

Negotiations are in progress for a management buyout of the BICC subsidiary, Brookside Metal Company, of Willenhall, West Midlands.

Brookside operates in scrap metal recovery and residue and is no longer considered by BICC to be part of its mainstream business. The assets involved are worth less than 1 per cent of group net assets, which stood at £420 million at the end of 1984.

LEASEHOLD

Mark Disley, a young first-time buyer, decided in August to buy a converted flat in a Victorian house in south London - but little did he know that the problems that he had encountered as a tenant in the rented sector would prove insignificant compared with the difficulties of being a leasehold home owner.

Now, like thousands of other leaseholders, Mr Disley has discovered all about freeholders who do not carry out repairs, managing agents who delay in providing documents, and excessive service charge demands.

Before he bought, Mr Disley's vendor had warned him that the managing agents were reluctant to carry out repairs. Urgent work needed to be done last year to repair the roof of the flat. The work was the responsibility of the freeholder who should have collected a proportion of the cost from the other flat owners in the house.

The vendor had asked the managing agents on numerous occasions to deal with the defects. The managing agents did nothing and in sheer desperation the vendor had arranged for a builder to carry out the work and had to pay the whole cost of £500 himself.

Despite the vendor's warning, Mr Disley decided to proceed with his purchase. He made an offer on the flat only to find that his solicitor discovered a defect in the lease. The managing agents then agreed to a deed varying the lease.

Both Mr Disley's solicitors and the vendor's solicitors spent the next four weeks chasing the managing agents and the freeholder's solicitors for the deed. The deed did not finally arrive until 10 days after Mr Disley completed his purchase.

During the intervening period, the solicitors had to threaten to bring an action for

Other leasees in the house had problems

negligence against the managing agents for delay, and the vendor had to obtain a £1,000 bridging loan to complete his associated purchase, as Mr Disley's solicitors withheld that amount until the deed had been signed.

Three months after moving in, Mr Disley and the other leasees in the house are now experiencing more problems. The managing agents have sent them an invoice for £300 for work already done to a manhole at the property.

The leasees allege the work is incomplete and sub-standard, and the cost is excessive. They knew nothing about the repair being undertaken until they



Mark Disley: A lease and a revelation about freeholders and managing agents

received the bill. They are now deciding what action to take.

The Government Committee of Inquiry on the Management of Privately Owned Blocks of Flats has just published its report highlighting many of the problems encountered by Mr Disley and others and has set out suggestions for reform.

Where a landlord fails to repair, a leasee has always been entitled to apply to the court to obtain an order forcing him to carry out the work. Section 125 of the Housing Act, 1974 specifically provides that the court has a discretion to order the landlord to repair not only a particular flat, but also other parts of the property.

However, the committee itself says: "A court order is cumbersome, expensive and an often ineffective method of getting the repairs done."

Its recommendation instead is that subject to proper safeguards for the landlord, the flat owners should be able to obtain a court order taking the management of the flats away from the landlord and putting it in the hands of a receiver and manager.

It is not commonly realized that leasees already have a right to apply to the High Court to appoint a receiver and manager. The committee emphasizes that the appointment is a last resort, but suggested that the procedure should be available in a more informal atmosphere.

Mr Disley's freeholder did agree to vary the terms of his lease but it was an uphill

struggle and it cost time and money.

The committee now suggests that where the landlord or one or more of the leasees identifies a major defect in one or more leases in a block it should be possible in certain circumstances to apply to the court.

The court would then look into modifying the terms of the leases, provided it was in the interests of the well-being of the block, and cases could be brought where the terms of the lease were such that there was a serious risk of deterioration in the block, unless the procedure was invoked.

Problems with service charges and the cost of works carried out are dealt with at length by the committee.

Occupiers have the right to be consulted

Leaseholders, however, do already have rights under the Housing Act 1980.

If a leaseholder pays a variable service charge, the Act provides, first, that he is entitled to obtain a summary of the costs on which the service charge is calculated.

Second, there is a right of inspection of accounts and receipt. Third, the court can be asked to fix the cost of works if they have not been done to a reasonable standard or at a reasonable cost, and fourth, the court can limit the amount of advance service charge payments.

Finally, the leaseholder does

have the right to be consulted before the landlord carries out major works at the property. The problem is, as the committee says, "many landlords and tenants are ignorant of their rights or deliberately disregard them".

The committee suggests strict controls over service charge accounts and more consultation work. Whether any of the committee's proposals will become law is a matter of conjecture. What is certain, however, is that leaseholders' problems will not disappear overnight.

In the meantime, there are organizations that do provide information and advice.

The Department of the Environment publishes a free booklet - *Service Charges in Flats* - a guide for leaseholders and tenants.

In addition, the Federation of Private Residents' Associations will help, particularly with problems regarding repairs and service charges. For those leaseholders who have the opportunity to purchase their freehold, Trust Shield negotiates with the freeholder and will set up and administer a system for service charges.

Susan Fieldman

The Federation of Private Residents' Associations, 11 Dartmouth Street, London SW11 7TR. Trust Shield, Thackeray House, Gilbert Street, London SE11

If you're about to invest in a pension plan make sure it's the best on the market.



Pension Plan Results Value of Fund over 10 years assuming 10 annual premiums of \$500. Amount invested (Allowing for tax relief at 30%). The figures assume that ten premiums were paid on 1st September each year commencing 1st September 1975. The first Target premium was paid on 1st November 1975.

If you're self-employed or the director of a private company, you'll know all about the tax advantages of investing in a pension plan.

Your biggest problem will be selecting the best from the rest. Obviously, the most important factor will be the size of your pension fund when you retire.

All too often, this decision is taken as a result of comparing projected growth figures, whereas the only realistic basis for comparison is achieved growth.

The table above compares the actual results of an investment in the Target Personal Pension Plan - linked to the Target Managed Pension Fund - with three leading with profits policies and two other unit linked plans invested in managed funds.

What it doesn't show, however, is that the Target plan has out-performed all other personal pension plans over the last ten years.

What's more, only the Target plan provides you with a guaranteed loanback facility* enabling you to draw on your investment whenever you like, with no additional management charges.

And, with Target you're not committed to keeping up a regular payment. You may vary the level of your investment to suit your personal circumstances.

Except, of course, with a growth record like ours, we think you'll want to invest more rather than less.

To find out more, fill out the Freepost coupon below.

Please let me have further information on the Target Pension Plan.

Name _____

Age _____ Occupation _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Business tel. no. _____

Send to: Dept M/P, Target Life Assurance Co. Ltd., Freepost, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 3YA. Tel: Aylesbury (0296) 5841.

TARGET
TARGET GROUP PLC

UNIT TRUSTS • LIFE ASSURANCE • PENSIONS • FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

At last, a high-interest cheque account that can take care of the little things in life.

The trouble with most high-interest cheque accounts is that you can't always use them as normal cheque accounts. Sounds ridiculous?

Well, it's true. It's not unusual for the minimum withdrawal to be nothing short of £200 (and in some cases, even more).

Now think about it, how often do you write cheques for such high amounts? Rarely?

Then think about this: with a Premium Account from The Royal Bank of Scotland you can write cheques for any amount you like, for whatever may crop up in the day-to-day business of life.

And because there's so much more to your financial affairs than simply writing cheques, we'll also provide you with all the other payment facilities a current account has to offer.

Plus of course, that all important Money Market rate of interest.

For more information and an application form, send off the coupon. Just a little task, but it's the little things that make all the difference.

INTEREST RATE PER ANNUM		
Correct at time of going to press. Subject to variation.		
Gross Rate	Interest paid quarterly	Net Rate
11.00%	Compounded Annual Rate	8.22%

*The Compounded Annual Rate shown is the Net Rate (rounded) to take account of the quarterly compounding of interest and rounded up to show what the rate is actually worth to a Bank Rate Depositor.

PREMIUM ACCOUNT

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc

Registered office:
36 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YE.
Registered in Scotland No. 00312.

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc

24 Lombard Street London EC3N 3BA

24 Hour Premium Account

Priority Service

0098840 83-04 200 0024 58 234

Please send me full details and an application form for a Premium Account from The Royal Bank of Scotland.

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Send to: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, Premium Accounts, FREEPOST, 24 Lombard Street, LONDON EC3N 3DR (no stamp required).

TIM/22

M&G OFFERS

Please tick the appropriate box for full details of the following services. NO SALESMAN WILL CALL.

Unit Trusts offer managed investment in British and overseas stock markets for £1,000 or more.

Savings Plan enables you to invest in unit trusts from £20 a month with no extra charges.

Share Exchange Scheme is an inexpensive way for you to exchange shares worth £1,000 or more for any M&G Unit Trust.

Planned Income Portfolio provides ten income payments spread through the year from an investment of £2,500 or more.

Family Protection Policy could provide all the Life Cover and Permanent Health Insurance that your family needs.

Flexible Pension Plan for anyone who is self-employed or not in an employer's pension scheme; you get complete tax relief on contributions.

8-22% net + Cheque Book equivalent to a gross compounded annual rate of 12.31% (correct at time of going to press). High Interest Cheque Account with Kleinwort, Benson Limited, administered by M&G as agents. Minimum initial deposit £2,500.

☐ PERSONAL ☐ COMPANY ☐ PARTNERSHIP
☐ CHARITY ☐ TRUSTEE ☐ CLUB OR SOCIETY

To: The M&G Group, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ. Tel: 01-626 4588.

Mr/Ms/Miss INITIALS

SURNAME

ADDRESS

POST CODE

MA 485015

Member of the Unit Trust Association

This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

THE M&G GROUP

The Pru sets its sights on the elderly

The elderly form an increasing proportion of the population, and these days, with the advent of worthwhile company pension schemes, the over-60s often have plenty of money to spend and invest. The Prudential - Britain's largest life and pensions company - is to step up its programme of pre-retirement counselling by holding a series of monthly seminars throughout next year. Obviously the company hopes to attract some of the over-60s money, but the courses, from all accounts, are well worth attending.

"Our 1985 programme proved very popular," says Roy Elms, head of Prudential's retirement counselling service. The courses are run in conjunction with employers and the sessions can be tailored to the specific needs of the companies' employees. The most popular course is the two-day version, designed for employees who are within a year or two of normal retirement age.

Another firm, DPS Consultants, also has a programme of pre-retirement courses for individuals which take place throughout the year at Leeds Castle, Kent.

Courses normally begin on Tuesday at 12.30 pm and end in the early afternoon of Friday the same week. Accommodation charges include full board and conference facilities.

But it does not come cheap. The course fee is £225 per person or £375 per couple, and accommodation charges are £485 per couple in a twin room or £270 per person. Details from DPS Consultants, 66 Preston Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8PG (Faversham 551472).

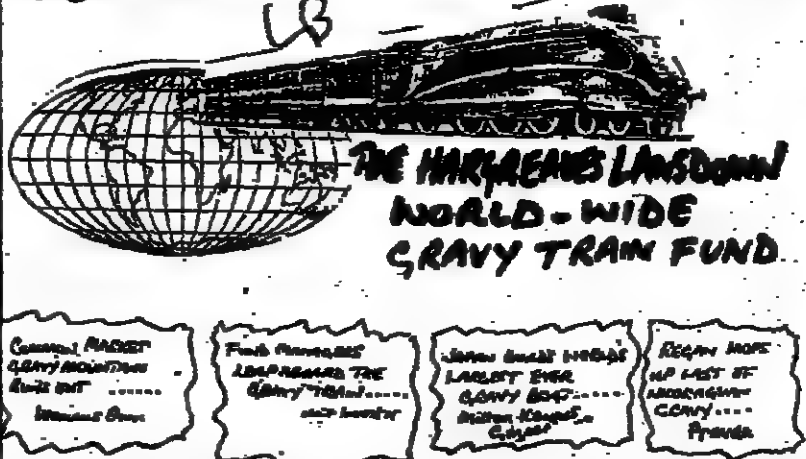
Good terms for the big earners

Professionals with good earnings prospects can borrow on very attractive terms under Chase de Vere's home loan scheme. For example, a young couple wanting a £40,000 loan could borrow up to 80 per cent of the purchase price at only 12.5 per cent and have three times the main income plus once the secondary income is taken into account.

Income multiples are even more generous for two income families where both partners are over the age of 35. In this case they could borrow up to three times their joint incomes at a rate of 12.75 per cent. A couple earning £40,000 a year between them could raise a loan of up to £120,000 provided it did not exceed 85 per cent of the purchase price of the property.

Full details: Chase de Vere, 125 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5EA (01-830 7242).

NEW FUNDS 10% DISC



Investment advisers Hargreaves Landow are running a Christmas competition, open to all. All you have to do is suggest the most specialist outlandish "humorous" unit trust for launch in the new year. It's a spoof on some of the more bizarre trusts which have been launched recently. You have to design and write all the necessary blurb on the investment objectives and marketing ideas. For example, Hargreaves Landow have come up with the Hargreaves Landow World-Wide Gray Trail Fund. What about the Dustbin Fund?

Details: Hargreaves Landow, Eastern House, Queen Avenue, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1SR. (Bristol 741309).

More freelances

Temporary work is on the increase with the trend towards fixed-term contracts rather than seasonal work, according to the latest report from the Manpower Services Commission. Around 1.5 million people were either in temporary, seasonal or casual jobs, or working on fixed-term contracts in the spring last year, compared with 1.3 million in the previous year. Service occupations, both high-skilled and low-skilled, account for the highest proportion of temporary work. These include the education professions, literary, artistic and sports occupations, sales and a range of personal services. Evidence suggests that some employers are increasing their use of temporary workers because of uncertainty over future permanent labour requirements.

Move with a deal

Employees who up to now have had a raw deal on pensions when they changed jobs, can take heart. From 1986 those who change jobs will be entitled to have their frozen pension contributions uprated by 5 per cent a year or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. This, however, applies only to contributions made after January 1986. The Company Pensions Information Centre has produced a revised edition of *How*

Changing Jobs Affects Your Pension, which fully explains the new rules. Copies of the booklet are available from the CPIC, Dept C1, 7 Old Park Lane, London W1Y 3LJ. Please enclose s.a.s.

Tax unravelled

Many taxpayers find themselves paying tax penalties, simply because they do not understand when and how they have to deal with various communications from the Inland Revenue. The latest booklet from the Institute of Chartered Accountants deals with exactly this problem. It is called *A Guide to Tax Claims and Elections* and provides a helpful hand through the increasingly complex minefield of deadlines for tax claims, and the time limits within which various elections have to be made. Copies of the booklet are available at £5 from the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Gloucester House, 399 Silbury Boulevard, Witan Gate East, Central Milton Keynes MK9 2HL.

Language of cash

Few financial institutions take account of the language and cultural problems large sections of society in this country may have when it comes to money. So it is heartening to see the Halifax producing leaflets in Punjabi, Hindi, Gujarati, Urdu and Bengali,

backed up by advertisements in selected ethnic publications. Prototypes of the leaflets, which give information on the Halifax's saving and mortgage schemes, were tested in areas having a high concentration of Asians. In addition to the Asian language leaflets, publications in Cantonese have already been printed and there are proposals for Greek to follow.

The only other institutions which have taken this step are a few of the banks - Hong Kong Shanghai Bank, for example, has Chinese-speaking staff at its branch in London's Chinatown in Soho.

Platinum pleases

Holders of platinum Nobles will have seen the price rise from £234.25 at the beginning of November to £244.30 by the end of the month having hit £262.85 on November 26. Those who bought back in July when the price stood at £196.45 will now be showing a healthy profit. Longer-term holders who came into the market earlier in the year in February, when the price stood at £260.55, have still some way to go before they will even see their money back. Platinum Nobles are marketed by Ayrton Metals, 30 Ely Place, London EC1N 6BT (01-404 0970).

Old hand, new boss

After what even the managers describe as "indifferent performance", the Robert Fraser Growth Trust is to be taken under the wing of old hand Brian Banks, who has been appointed investment manager to the fund. "Brian is well-known for his 20-year record of sustained success in investment and portfolio management. The Robert Fraser Growth Trust is the only trust with which he is involved and therefore the only opportunity for medium to small investors to benefit from his expertise," said Charles Hoare, of Robert Fraser. "Since Brian's appointment the trust has achieved the number one position in its sector for both the one-month and six-month periods to October 1."



Brian Banks: 'Record of success'

How to find the best home loan

Mortgage money is plentifully available according to the latest survey carried out by *Blay's Guides*. "Although the level of interest rates is actually the house buyer's primary concern, institutions which charge the same or similar rates may have very different lending policies," cautions *Blay's*.

The proportion of valuation or purchase price which lenders are prepared to advance can vary widely, as can the multiple of income which the society is prepared to consider.

"In the case of large loans, banks, insurance companies and finance houses tend to be the most generous," says *Blay's*.

The mortgage tables highlight the fact that most of the big societies have now abolished differentials - the system of charging higher rates for larger loans. Halifax, Abbey National, Woolwich, Nationwide, Anglia National & Provincial and Britannia all charge a flat rate of 12.75 per cent irrespective of the size of a loan.

The cheapest home loans from the banks are often on offer from United Bank of Kuwait, which is charging only 12.5 per cent. The minimum loan is £30,000 and you can borrow up to 90 per cent of the property's valuation.

Chemical Bank, First National Bank of Boston and Royal Bank of Scotland are all offering home loans at 12.75 per cent. However, because of the difference between the way in which building societies and banks quote interest rates, the banks are actually cheaper at 13 per cent than the building societies at 12.75 per cent.

Copies of *Blay's* mortgage tables are available at many public libraries but otherwise are available only to subscribers. Details from *Blay's Guides*, Churchfield Road, Chalfont St Peter, Bucks SL9 9BW (Gerrards Cross 884417).

FRAMLINGTON

CAPITAL TRUST

An Opportunity to Invest in a Star Performer

Framlington Capital Trust has long had a claim to be one of the best unit trusts ever launched: its consistent performance and the calm way it has always been run combine to produce a very good unit trust indeed.

It was formed in January 1969 to invest for a combination of capital growth and modest income mainly through smaller British companies. It has always been managed by Bill Stuttard, now Framlington's Chairman. It is an excellent vehicle both for lump sum investment and for regular savings.

UP 988 PER CENT

Between January 1969 and 1st December 1985, the price of units rose 988 per cent, compared with 285 per cent for the FT All-Share Index.

Planned Savings figures show that over ten years to 1st December it had by far the best performance of any unit trust. With net income reinvested, £1,000 on 1st December 1975 would have been worth £12,502 ten years later, 10 per cent more than the next best fund, which reached £11,296. The same investment in the FT All-Share Index would have grown to £6,656.

£27,720 FOR £3,600

The trust has also produced a scintillating performance for regular savers. £20 per month over ten years to 1st December would have turned into £10,021 for an outlay of £2,400. Over 15 years £20 per month would have produced £27,720 for an outlay of £3,600, the best result for any unit trust.

Capital Trust's performance has been achieved by carefully picking out smaller British companies with good prospects of growth and then tending to stay with them. The list of shares is longer than is conventional (there are currently 160). The amount of turnover is lower than average. This keeps the dealing costs low, which helps performance.

Units are available in both income form (with distributions twice each year) and

accumulation form (in which net income is reinvested).

On 1st December 1985 the price of income units was 180.4p (accumulation units, 215.2p). The estimated gross yield was 3.27 per cent.

LUMP SUM INVESTMENT

You can make a lump sum investment simply by completing the form below and sending it to us with your cheque. Units are allocated at the price ruling when we receive your order. The minimum investment for a lump sum is £500. There is a discount of 1 per cent for investments of £10,000 or more.

MONTHLY SAVINGS PLAN

Starting a monthly savings plan is equally easy. The minimum is £20 per month, with a discount of 1 per cent for contributions of £100 or more. Accumulation units are used and are allocated at the price ruling on the 5th of each month. To start your plan, complete the application and send it with your cheque for the first contribution. Subsequent contributions are by the direct debit mandate which we shall send to you for your signature.

Investors are reminded that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Framlington Capital Trust is an authorised unit trust constituted by Trust Deed. The Trustee is Lloyds Bank Plc. The Managers are Framlington Unit Management Limited, 5 London Wall Buildings, London EC2M 5NQ. Telephone 01-628 5181.

Applications will be acknowledged. Certificates for lump-sum investments will be sent by the registrars, Lloyds Bank Plc, normally within 6 weeks.

Prices are published daily in *The Times*, *Daily Telegraph* and *Financial Times*.

The annual charge is 34 per cent (+VAT) of the value of the fund. The Trust Deed includes powers to increase this to a maximum of 1 per cent if necessary. The initial charge (included in the offer price) is 5 per cent.

When units are sold back to the managers payment is normally made within 7 days of receipt of the renounced certificate. Savings plans can be cashed in at any time.

Commission of 14 per cent is paid to qualified intermediaries, but not on savings plans. Distributions on income units are paid net of basic rate tax on May 15th and November 15th to unit-holders on the register two months previously. A report is sent at the time of the distribution. Savings plan statements are sent every six months.

Registered in England No. 895241. Member of the Unit Trust Association.

This offer is not open to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

TO: FRAMLINGTON UNIT MANAGEMENT LIMITED, 5 LONDON WALL BUILDINGS, LONDON EC2M 5NQ

LUMP SUM

I wish to invest in Framlington Capital Trust (minimum £500)

I enclose my cheque payable to Framlington Unit Management Limited. I am over 18. For accumulation units in which income is reinvested, tick here ☐

Surname (Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms)

Full first name(s)

Address

Signature

(Joint applicants should all sign and give details separately)

MONTHLY SAVINGS

I wish to start a Monthly Savings Plan for in Framlington Capital Trust (minimum £20)

I enclose my cheque for £..... for my first contribution (this can be for a larger amount than your monthly payment). I am over 18.

Date

FRAMLINGTON

The costs of retirement

PENSIONS

Target's top-performing personal pension policy has been revamped to lower the charges on policies. But in spite of lowering charges the new policy can still be criticized for retaining the unloved capital units.

Capital units are designed to eat into your capital as a way of recouping the cost of setting up a policy while appearing to be some sort of special super-charged unit which will grow faster than the ordinary units.

They are a common feature of pension plans, but some companies have deliberately steered clear.

"I think capital units are a con," says Paddy Ross, a director of Framlington Life. "I think they should be prohibited by law. They make such a difference - only about half the first year's premium gets invested. A 'con' is the right word for it because people don't realize how the charges mount up."

Framlington Life which issues only single-premium policies at the moment - although a regular premium plan will be launched in the new year - is committed to investing 100 per cent of investments.

The simple charge for the single-premium policies is an initial charge of just under 6 per cent to take account of the usual bid-offer spread on Framlington unit trusts. There is a 0.75

per cent annual management charge for UK funds and 1 per cent for overseas funds.

The regular-premium policy will have surrender penalties to deter people from ceasing payments after a couple of years and making the policy paid up but no capital units.

Target's changed charging structure will lower charges so that a £1,000-a-year investment for 20 years is now being projected to be worth £58,625 at the end of the term rather than £53,326.

"Next year will see intensified competition in the personal pension field," says Target's managing director John Stone. "The structure and

Flat rate designed for large premiums

performance of pensions will be under critical scrutiny."

What Target has done is to put the 3 per cent initial management charge represented by the bid-offer spread and the 1 per cent annual management fee into a bonus account which will grow alongside the policy. This is then added to the policy at the predetermined retirement date to boost the fund.

If you retire early you get only a proportion of the bonus fund. For single-premium policies, 97 per cent of the contribution is allocated to funds rather than 100 per cent.

EFFECT OF CAPITAL UNITS ON PENSIONS CONTRACTS				
Assuming £1,000 is allocated to units at the start of each of the first two years (the usual period for capital unit allocation)				
Term	100% capital units	100% Equitable units	Percentage contribution to Equitable units needed to get same result as 100% in capital units	
10	3,223	4,327	75	
20	5,654	10,244	56	
30	9,980	24,252	41	

● Taking growth at 10% pa.
● Regular unit charges are 0.75% pa for Equitable and 0.75% plus extra 0.5% for capital units.
● Bid-offer spread throughout of 5%.

Figures from Equitable Life.

The first two years of payments are deemed to be capital units and bear a 3.5 per cent levy, and on top of this there is a monthly administration charge of £1.40 for personal pensions and £3 for executive pensions which is index-linked.

The administration charge is a flat rate designed to favour large premium policies. But anyone increasing contributions will find that the first two years of any increase will bear the 3.5 per cent capital unit penalty.

Equitable Life, like Framlington, has set itself against the idea of capital units. "We believe that policies with heavy front-end loadings, or other less evident ways used to extract high premium costs, will come increasingly under fire from all informed sources."

Equitable is also re-examining its charging structure. By August 1986, 100 per cent of premiums from the first two years of the allocation in the first year was between 80 and 98.75 per cent with all-allocation of 105 per cent in year three onwards.

The net effect of the change in charging is nil and leaves projections unchanged, but it simplifies the plan. The initial 5 per cent charge and 0.75 per cent annual management charge - 1 per cent for regular contributions under £500 a year - remain the same.

Equitable says: "From the very first contribution, whether monthly or annually, 100 per cent of the investment will be used to acquire units. There is no front-end loading, nor will we resort to the issue of capital units. This means that the significant charges will be a flat rate."

Equitable is offering long-term investors by offering a bonus over the years to the pension contributors more than £300, and undertake that the pension will not be affected if the policyholder retires at a different age from the one he originally intended.

Vivian Goldsmith

CAPITAL GROWTH AND TAX RELIEF

Join us in the success of Companies in THE THRIVING EAST ANGLIAN REGION via The Tax Efficient BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME and UTILISE AN IMPRESSIVE TEAM to select and nurture your Investments in 'REAL' BUSINESSES. Contact the Fund Managers for a copy of the Fund Memorandum.

Fund Managers Cambridge Capital Limited (Licensed Dealer in Securities) 7 Green Street, Cambridge CB2 3JU Telephone: 0223 312856

Closing date for subscriptions - 17th January 1986 Minimum subscription - £2,000

Application to subscribe will be accepted only on the basis and conditions set out in the Fund Memorandum. Investment in unquoted companies carries higher risks as well as the chance of capital gain.

THE CAMBRIDGE CAPITAL EXPANSION FUND 1985/86

AN APPROVED BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME UNDER

FAMILY MONEY/3

How earnings go up when the pound goes down

CURRENCIES

The weakening of our precious oil-sensitive currency this week is not going to leave investors untouched.

Undoubtedly sterling's resurgence since February, when at one point the pound was worth only 1.03 US dollars, has, in part, accounted for the generally lacklustre performance of those unit trusts specialising in overseas markets.

A fall in sterling values, however, will increase the value in sterling terms of the overseas investments in which the trusts are invested.

Those investors having direct stakes in British exporters or in companies which generate large overseas earnings should also benefit from a decline in sterling - ICI for example, has risen by 31p (from 71p to 742p) in the week up to December 12.

Unilever is another company which traditionally benefits in these circumstances, along with Jaguar, whose car sales in the United States have in the past rocketed on the weakness of the pound.

Jaguar has, however, adopted a fairly heavy hedging position; sterling's earlier strength this year saw the share price heavily down from a peak of 360p at one point.

The decline in sterling should also mean that higher interest rates will be maintained - at least for the time being - in order to deter international investors from withdrawing their UK-based investments.

So private investors who favour fixed interest invest-

ments, either for fiscal (or peace of mind) reasons, should continue to benefit from high UK interest rates.

Alistair Begg, at Kleinwort Benson Investment Management Ltd, points out that it is the volatility of sterling, rather than any downward movement, that is likely to have most impact on many businesses which rely to a considerable extent on imports.

He says: "Large corporations are by now fully geared up to cope with the volatility of currencies, but this volatility must make planning very difficult for those small businesses which do not have appropriate expertise or resources."

One type of investment likely to be affected - not necessarily adversely - is the offshore-managed currency fund. These

'We've been sceptical of sterling since July'

creatures emerged after exchange controls were abolished in 1979. At present there are approximately 43 managed currency funds and 126 multi-currency deposit funds.

In the case of the latter it is the individual investor who decides which currencies he or she wants to invest in. With managed currency funds however, investors rely on the expertise of the managers to make the decisions.

"We have been sceptical of sterling since July," says Howard Flight, head of Guinness Mahon's investment department. Guinness Mahon has two managed currency funds

totalling about \$81 million between them.

"Both funds have only an 8 per cent exposure approximately," says Mr Flight. "From January to July we were about 40 per cent invested in sterling. Now, apart from the sterling, the rest is totally invested in either the yen or the Deutschmark."

Mr Flight says that it was abundantly clear during the past year that Opec would be breaking up, and he has been cautious about sterling values.

He also warns against the short-term view that a falling pound means a corresponding increase in overseas investments.

He considers that the strengthening of the yen will be bad for the Japanese equity market, for instance, particularly the exporters whose profit margins will suffer as their products become more expensive to UK purchasers.

Hambros has four managed currency funds - two sterling-denominated and two dollar-denominated. It too appears to have reduced its sterling content. "We don't particularly like going aggressively out of our base currencies unless we are reasonably certain," a Hambros spokesman said this week.

"Over the last few months,



however, we have been taking an exposure against sterling. So the value of the fund has gone up."

On a 12-month view two of the Hambros funds are in the top five performing managed currency funds. Guinness Mahon has its Guinness Mahon

'Investment in long-term growth'

International Fund top of the managed currency fund tables on a three-year and five-year view.

Over at Schroder, Andrew Robert, assistant manager of Schroder Unit Trust Managers

Lawrence Lever

CURRENCY FUNDS - MANAGED

Best leaders	Five years	Three years	One year		
Guinness Mahon International	2,738	Guinness Mahon International	1,898	TSB Currency Fund	1,145
Phoenix Int. Currency	2,063	Hill Samuel Mgd Currency	1,574	Standard Chart & Mgd Sigs	1,124
International & Mgd Currency	2,028	Phoenix Int. Currency	1,338	Hambros Curr Unit Mgd Sigs	1,116
Dunn & Hargitt Cur & GP	1,513	Provid Cap Int Currency	1,504	Hambros Curr Acc Mgd Sigs	1,107
Average	2,085	Varbrugh Currency Fund	1,496	Hill Samuel Mgd Currency	1,104
		Average	1,333	Average	994

*Current value of £1,000 invested over various periods to November 1, 1985. Source: Money Management

Your income overseas

If you are thinking of going abroad to work or retire, get hold of a copy of the new *Allied Dunbar Guide for Overseas and International Clients*. Although it is aimed at professional advisers, it sets out in a simple form the basics of taxation and how it

will apply in a variety of situations. Flow charts make a complicated subject much easier to understand and the booklet is available free from Allied Dunbar's International Marketing Department, Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL.

MISS WORLD CLUBS PLC
OFFER CLOSES WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18TH

OFFER FOR SUBSCRIPTION
UNDER THE BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME
SPONSORED BY

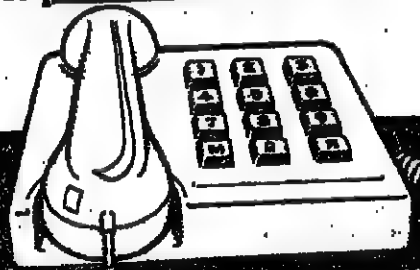
INDUSTRIAL FINANCE AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION PLC
Telephone No. 01-725 4841

AND

THE GUIDEHOUSE GROUP PLC
Telephone No. 01-606 6321

Britannia Money Guide

For personal financial advice-



CALL FREE ON
0800-010 333

You'll be well advised to call, because the service is free, expert and tailored to your needs.

If you're tired of wading through reams of investment literature, phone one of our investment experts.

Dial the new Britannia MoneyGuide service and one of our highly professional, experienced advisers will help you with any aspect of investment and savings.

The phone calls are FREE: all you have to do from anywhere in the UK is dial the number below and you're through to good advice. Call weekdays from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm.

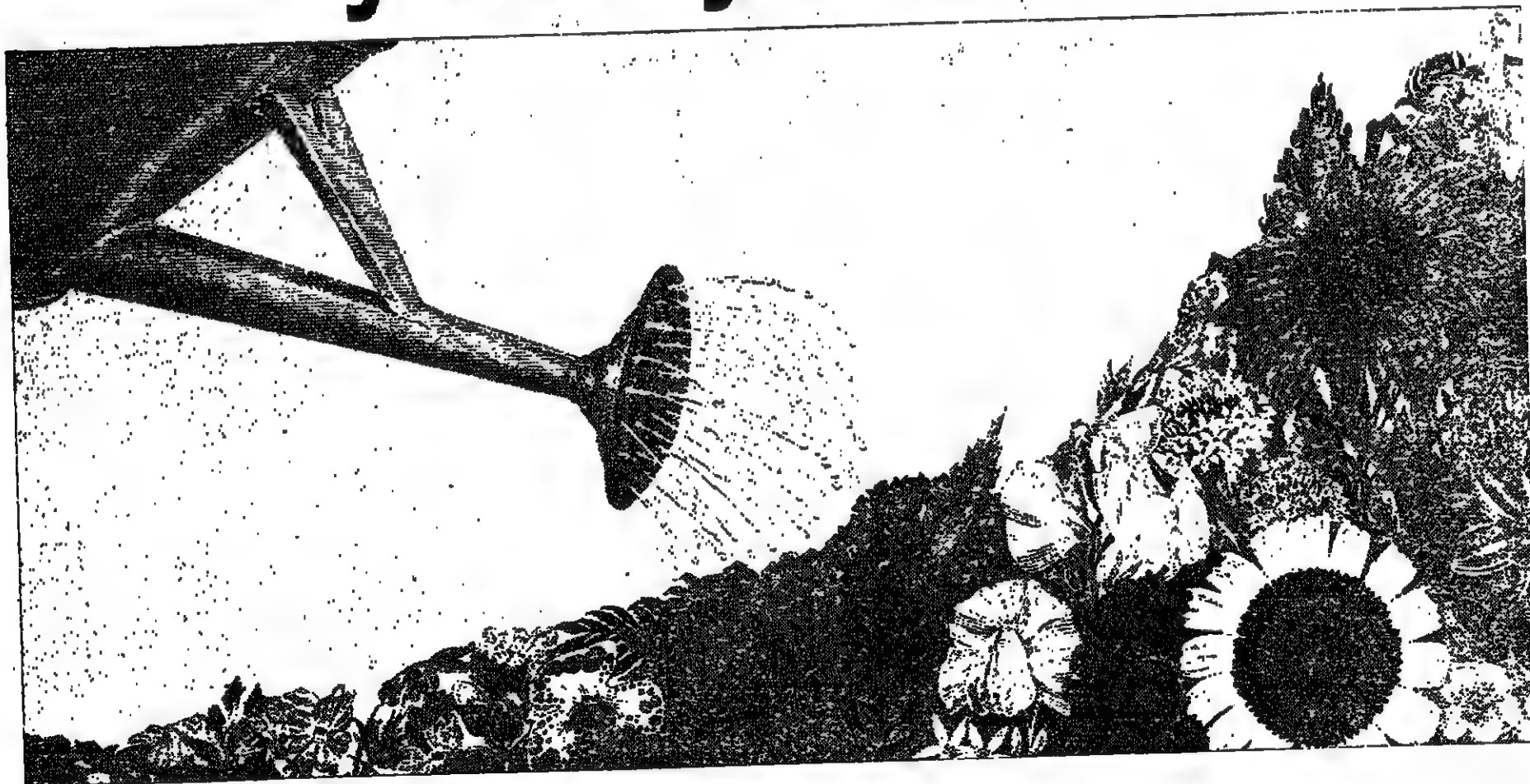
Britannia MoneyGuide
Dial FREE on 0800-010 333.

Britannia
Britannia Unit Trust Managers Limited
24-26 Finsbury Pavement, London EC2A 1JD

ASSETS NOW EXCEED £2,000 m.

Provident Mutual's investment performance.

By Percy Thrower.



Detailed performance figures available on request.

Not only have Provident Mutual's managed funds bloomed beautifully over the years, they've also outgrown many other forms of investment.

For example, the Managed Fund for pensions plans has grown by 93.1%* in the three years to 1st October 1985 (equivalent to an average annual growth of 24.5%). And the Managed Fund for regular savings and Bonds is up 76.1%* (20.8% pa).

Of course, unit prices can fall from time to time and our future performance can't be guaranteed but, over the longer term, Provident Mutual has performed more than satisfactorily. Now you can take advantage of our fund managers' expertise in the stock market by investing in one or more of our unit linked plans.

If you want to save regularly, or have a lump sum to invest, then we have suitable plans to offer. If you're self-employed or work in a job that doesn't carry a pension, you can save for retirement using our Personal Pension Plan.

Fill in the coupon, below, and we'll send you all the information you need.

Before too long, everything could be looking as good in your garden as it does in ours. *Change in offer price of ordinary units.

To: Provident Mutual Life Assurance Association,
FREEPOST Stevenage SG1 4YH.

I would like more information on Provident Mutual's unit linked plans for

Regular savings ☐

Lump sum investment ☐

Personal pensions ☐

Name

Date of birth

Address

Telephone No.

Name of financial adviser (if any)

PROVIDENT MUTUAL
Investment with the individual touch.

FOUNDED 1840

FAMILY MONEY/4

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

Barclays Higher Rate	8.22	8.53	01 628 8000
Barclays Deposit Account	8.27	8.64	01 628 1507
Barclays 5.75 per cent, National Girobank 6 per cent, Fixed term deposits £10,000-£24,999, 1 month 6.125 per cent, 3 months 8 per cent, 6 months 7.875 per cent, National Westminster 1 month 7.75 per cent, 3 months 7.66 per cent, 6 months 7.57 per cent, Midland. Other banks may differ.			
Chase Bank Money Mkt. Plus	7.77	8.00	01 749 5281
HFC Trust 7 day	8.80	8.79	01 236 8381
Henderson Money Market	8.22	8.53	01 638 5757
Chase Bank M & G HICA	8.25	8.51	01 628 4588
Midland HICA	8.22	8.51	01 628 4588
22,000-29,999	8.00	8.24	0742 20828
£10,000 & over	8.20	8.56	0742 20868

MONEY FUNDS

Net CHAR Telephone	8.22	8.57	01 638 8070
Adrian Hume monthly inc.			

Income and capital gains tax, equivalent to an annual interest rate over the five-year term of 7.95 per cent, maximum investment £5,000.

National Savings Yearly Plan
A one year regular savings plan converting into four-year savings certificates. Minimum £20. Maximum £200 a month. Return over five years 8.19 per cent - tax free.

National Savings Deposit Bond
Minimum investment £100, maximum £50,000. Interest 12 per cent variable at six weeks notice credited annually without deduction of tax. Repayment at three months notice. Half interest only paid on bonds repaid during first year.

Local authority yearling bonds
12 months fixed rate investments interest 11.75 per cent basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbroker or bank.

Guaranteed Income Bonds
Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers until April 1986, when CRT becomes payable). 1 yr Monthly 7.5 per cent, min investment £1,000; 2 yrs Monthly 7.9 per cent, min investment £1,000; 3-7 yrs Monthly 8.1 per cent, min investment £500; 8-10 yrs Monthly 8.3 per cent, min investment £500. Further details available from Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy, Loans House, 101-103, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. Tel: 0779 222211.

Building societies
Ordinary share accounts - 7.00 per cent. Extra interest accounts usually pay 1 to 2 per cent over the ordinary share rate. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax. Not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Foreign currency deposits
Rates quoted by Rothschild's Old Court Ltd, Reserve 0481 28741. Seven days notice is required for withdrawal and no charge is made for switching currencies.

Starting
US dollar 10.82 per cent
7.50 per cent
D Mark 6.52 per cent
Pound 5.71 per cent
Swiss Franc 8.87 per cent
West Franc 1.76 per cent

Now it's high tech on the track of new cash



Peter Rhodes-Dimmer, chairman of Imagraphic

BUSINESS EXPANSION

The market appears to have had enough of heavy, asset-backed Business Expansion Scheme offers for the time being and is allowing the occasional high-technology venture to emerge.

Doubtless the asset-backed companies will come again towards the end of the year, but in the meantime investors may like to consider the latest offer - Imagraphic - which is looking for a maximum of £250,000 through sponsors UTC Securities.

Broadly speaking, Imagraphic will be marketing a very sophisticated form of computer graphics. It will produce high-quality commercial artwork for television and film animation, design for print and packaging and graphics presentation.

About £250,000 has already been spent researching the commercial potential of electronic image-processing - the technical term for Imagraphic's product - and the company is projecting pre-tax profits of £102,000, after 15 months' trading, and £286,000 for the following year.

Imagraphic will not be taking over any of the debts incurred in research and development investigations - instead the relevant directors are taking shares in the company, at their 5p par value, while outsiders pay 25p.

It is worth noting that all the directors appear to have considerable relevant experience, and age, on their side.

A pace-setter for the elderly with property assets

HOME INCOME PLANS

The controversial and innovative chairman of tiny Stalwart Assurance has devised a home income plan for the elderly which could prove to be a pace-setter.

Home income plans have traditionally extracted income from elderly home owners' property by raising a mortgage up to £30,000, and using the money to buy an annuity. This provides income to repay the interest on the loan, which will qualify for tax relief, the remainder being extra spendable cash. The capital part of the loan is repaid when the house is sold after the elderly person dies.

But this new scheme involves the elderly person selling the house outright to Stalwart Assurance in return for a lifetime lease on the property, and a lifetime income tied to a house price index (linked to the value of Stalwart's property portfolio).

As the whole value of the house is given up rather than just the £30,000 limited by mortgage interest relief a higher income can be obtained by this scheme.

But - and it is a big but - the home owner has to give up ownership which may be psychologically unacceptable, and if house prices fall, so will the income.

At the moment house prices are rising by 8-8.5 per cent a year. But under the Stalwart scheme, if property prices and inflation raced away as they did in the 1970s, the elderly person's income would be limited to a maximum rise in any one year of 1.5 per cent. The excess would be used to improve income in future years.

when increases were below 1.5 per cent.

There is a minimum lease-rent of £5 a month with those properties valued at more than £40,000 paying an extra £1.25 per £10,000. This also moves in line with the house price index.

The householder is responsible for all repairs, and the condition of the house will be inspected every two years to ensure that it is being properly maintained. Stalwart says it may be able to advance the money for any repairs deemed necessary, deducting repayments from the monthly income over a number of years.

"The income is subject to the Policyholders' Protection Act, which means it is 90 per cent protected," said Bob Morrison, who is best known for creating the Family Assurance Friendly Society which paved the way for a new generation of dynamic friendly societies.

"He's got an attractive idea," said one insurance broker. "If he really is on to a good thing, the more established companies will not be far behind. I'm advising anyone interested in this plan to wait a little longer and see what else comes along."

The plan may be attractive to those aged 60 to 70 who cannot get a worthwhile income from the traditional plans.

Under the Stalwart plan a 60-year-old woman with a house valued at £50,000 can get spendable income starting at £1,262.50 a year and moving with the house price index.

A woman of 75 would get £2,413.50 after tax. If the same 75-year-old woman were to look at a traditional plan she could get £1,753 a year spendable income in return for giving up £30,000 of the value of her house - but she would retain ownership of her house and any increase in value would be hers.

VG

Deal free of Commission

CABLE & WIRELESS

LAURA ASHLEY

British Telecom, British Aerospace, Marks & Spencer, P.O. Underwoods, GEC, Grand Metropolitan, Boots, ICI, Jaguar, Britoil, Trusthouse Forte, International City Holdings

TELEPHONE 01-794 0123

Visit the SHARE SHOP

108-110 Finchley Rd, London NW3 5JJ

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

CITY INVESTMENT CENTRES LTD

Licensed Dealers in Securities

Life begins at...

60

EAST 61ST STREET

62

63

64

65

66

67

68

69

70

...take your pick

Higher income better yield

INVESTMENT

A new form of building society investment on offer from financial advisers R. J. Temple, gives particular advantages to higher rate taxpayers, if they are able to defer cashing in their investment until they are in the basic rate bracket - and to those subject to UK Age Allowance clawback.

Called the Premium Share Account, it is an insurance policy wrapped around an investment in building societies. It guarantees to pay a rate at least 2.75 per cent above the base rate quoted by General Portfolio Life, the insurance company which is producing the wrap-around policy.

GPI is expecting to keep its base rate in line with the recommended building society ordinary share account rate - currently 7.25 per cent.

This means the current return on the Premium Share Account is 10 per cent net of basic rate tax.

Liability to higher tax is postponed

The appeal for higher rate taxpayers is that because the building society investment is wrapped up in an insurance company bond, liability to higher rate tax is deferred until you cash in the bond.

By the time you retire or cash in the bond you might be a basic rate taxpayer only.

At the moment investors will earn 10 per cent net of basic rate tax on the investment. Provided the bond is held for three years, there will in addition be a 3 per cent bonus.

For example, if you invest £10,000 today, in three years' time there will be a bonus of £300.

Income is paid annually and the investment may be continued beyond the original three-year term. If you keep £5,000 or more in the account, income can be paid monthly at the rate of 9.57 per cent.

The bond is particularly attractive to top-rate taxpayers who need income from their investments since the liability to higher rates of tax is postponed until you encash the bond.

The same applies to investors subject to Age Allowance clawback - although here the bond is not so attractive as the various schemes for taking an income from National Savings certificates.

Because you do not have to gross up the return from the bond, as you would with a straight building society investment, the impact on your entitlement to Age Allowance is lessened, just as the liability to higher rate tax is deferred.

At any time after two years you can obtain your money on two months' notice - before that there are penalties.

Full details of the Premium Share Account are available from R. J. Temple & Co, 37 Grand Parade, Brighton, Sussex BN 2QA (Brighton 673136).

Lorna Bourke

Quick guide to finance

Accountants Robson Rhodes have just released an updated UK 1985-86 version of the well-received *Personal Financial Planning Manual* they produced last year (Batterworth's £15.50). Compiled by Robson Rhodes partner, John Rayer, a tax expert, the book takes into account the implications of this year's finance and social security legislation.

It has two new sections on financial futures and traded options for more sophisticated investors.

The work is split into five sections - headed investments, family finances, life assurance, pensions and capital transfer tax.

It makes clear that personal financial planning is individual and suggests what sort of things people should be considering at different stages in their lives.

FOWNES HOTELS PLC

offer for subscription under the **Business Expansion Scheme**

of up to 1,150,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each at £1.50 per share payable in full on application

Fownes Hotels PLC will develop and manage a small group of quality "Town House Hotels" having clearly defined business and tourist markets, the first of which is an imaginative conversion in the centre of Worcester.

- ★ Initial asset backing calculated at £1.31 per share.
- ★ The well researched concept of a group of quality "Town House Hotels".
- ★ A highly competent management team, with an impressive track record with leading hotel groups.

THE OFFER CLOSING ON 27TH DECEMBER OR WHEN FULLY SUBSCRIBED IF EARLIER

For a copy of the prospectus contact:

Centrefree Development Capital Ltd
1 Waterloo Street
Birmingham
B2 5PG
Tel: 021-643 9841

Buckmaster & Moore
The Stock Exchange
London
EC2P 2JT
Tel: 01-555 2886

Member of NASDMM

It is not intended to make application at this stage for the securities being offered to be dealt in on the United Securities Market or to be admitted to the Official List of The Stock Exchange.

Private Medical Insurance

We've cut the cost down to size.

BCWA's reputation is built on 50 years experience and personal service in Private Medical Insurance. Throughout that time we have built up a national reputation for being "best buy" in the market.

More individuals and companies than ever before are turning to BCWA for their health insurance needs. Our schemes include excellent cover for private hospital charges, specialists fees and outpatient treatment and an Additional Cash Payment option.

For full details of our competitive terms send the coupon today

BCWA medical insurance the less expensive way:
Bristol House, 40-56 Victoria Street, Bristol, BS1 6AB Telephone: (01272) 295742
Bristol Contributory Welfare Association 715
Bristol House, 40-56 Victoria Street, Bristol, BS1 6AB
Please send me details of the Private Patients Scheme
I am aged under 65 ☐ For Individuals ☐ For Companies ☐
For members of Professional/Trade Associations ☐

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

Lorna Bourke

Who says life begins at forty? It's only when you've retired that you're really free to enjoy yourself. To live where you choose; to visit faraway places; to pursue your hobbies and interests at your leisure, instead of cramming them into the few hours available in the evening or at weekends.

But, if you're to enjoy retirement to the full, you'll need more than just time. You'll need money.

To ensure that your retirement becomes a time of pleasure, not a time of hardship and to protect you from the dramatic changes in financial circumstances that often occur at this time, we've developed the Personal and Executive Retirement Plans.

They allow you to take full advantage of all available tax reliefs to maximise your accumulated savings. And, with a tax free lump sum and a regular income to count on, you'll have real control over your future, retiring when you choose, and not when State benefits dictate you must.

Designed by Allied Dunbar, innovators in financial management, they feature the unique concept of 'total linking' which, coupled with 'pensions portability', enables almost any change in your circumstances to be accommodated.

Their inherent flexibility boasts many other features: for example, you can vary your savings in line with your ability to pay, and you can rearrange your loan repayments onto a more tax-efficient basis.

All of which makes the Allied Dunbar retirement plans very hardworking. So that, on your retirement, you can really take it easy.

For more information about Allied Dunbar's plans for retirement, simply fill in the coupon below.

Write to: Sonia Bennett,
Allied Dunbar Assurance plc,
FREEPOST, Swindon SN1 1XZ
(no stamp needed)
or phone
0800 010500,
24 hr. 7 day service.
We pay for the call.

Name Mr./Mrs./Miss _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Tel: _____

ALLIED DUNBAR
THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT GROUP

FAMILY MONEY/5

Take Christmas into account

Money is always a last-ditch option for flustered grandparents or friends who have run out of ideas for Christmas presents.

One attractive idea this Christmas is to open a special account with one of the clearing banks or building societies that operate such a scheme.

Not only will parents, grandparents or other donors be able to pack up or send an array of small gifts to the child or teenager, but in most cases they will be reminded of the gift on their birthday and by regular magazines, as well as starting them on the savings habit.

Six banks operate such schemes. The Bank of Scotland (not to be confused with the Royal Bank of Scotland) offers a Supersaver account for those under 16 years with a 9 per cent rate of interest.

For a minimum of £1, the child receives a folder, a pen, a

The account earns 8 per cent interest, while Midland's Griffin Saver's quotes 7 per cent above its normal deposit rate - that's a total of 7.75 per cent.

For a £10 opening sum, the child receives a project folder, geometry set, a home bank file, an Oxford dictionary, a badge and a saver's card - the best pack value from any bank. Griffin account holders have a magazine twice a year and a card on their birthday.

National Westminster's Piggy Bank account starts with a minimum £3, of which £1 is credited to the account, and the balance pays for the pack of pencils, a plastic wallet and the first ceramic pig. There are five pigs to collect, and one is free with every £25 saved. They can be used as money boxes. The rate is 7.5.

The Trustee Savings Bank offers the Teens Scheme with a minimum £50 and a rate of 7.25 per cent. Posters, a passbook and other gifts come on opening, followed by a quarterly magazine and a birthday card.

In addition, as with most societies, there is an annual statement. A few send one twice a year, using one of the occasions to send birthday greetings.

The Acorn 7 per cent account with Bradford & Bingley gives a free money box on opening. With a maximum age of 14 years, it includes a gift voucher scheme which may be cashed in or credited to the account.

For those aged 14-21 years, the society has an enterprising Money Manager account. It includes a file on key financial subjects such as insurance, car insurance, tax and a telephone number for assistance on financial matters.

Snoopy is the name of Bristol & West children's account with 50p-£5 savings stamps that can be collected, depicting Snoopy cartoon pictures. Badges and a balloon are given on joining, as well as cardboard cut-outs of

respective magazines, badges, etc. Alternatively, a child can have half the cost of membership to Junior Friends of London Zoo paid for.

Gifts dependent on the child's age are given by the Melton Mowbray Building Society which pays 8.5 per cent. Birthday and Christmas cards are sent, and there is the chance to participate in competitions.

The Portman's Young Generation account pays 9.25 per cent with a minimum £5 investment. Crayons, a booklet, a badge and other goodies are given on joining. No card is sent, but savers receive a calendar. Animal pictures are also given.

The Norwich has a 7.25 per cent scheme, known as the Moneytree, with occasional promotions. Maximum investment is £500 a year.

Skipton has a 7 per cent Junior Investor scheme for children up to 18 years, with a complimentary money box in the shape of a castle. It gives children and teenagers the chance to buy a sports bag for £2.



Box with divisions for different coins

badge and a plastic money box, as well as a passbook with the squirrel emblem. A birthday card and a quarterly magazine are sent.

Barclays has a scheme also under the Supersaver name for children aged seven to 16 years. If the child is younger, the account can be operated in the parent's name. Withdrawals can be made at any time from this account, which pays 7.25.

Lloyds has its Black Horse Young Savers account. For an opening £10, the child receives a money box which has divisions for differently shaped coins. As in the other schemes, there is a paying-in book.

Box with divisions for different coins

badge and a plastic money box, as well as a passbook with the squirrel emblem. A birthday card and a quarterly magazine are sent.

Barclays has a scheme also under the Supersaver name for children aged seven to 16 years. If the child is younger, the account can be operated in the parent's name. Withdrawals can be made at any time from this account, which pays 7.25.

Lloyds has its Black Horse Young Savers account. For an opening £10, the child receives a money box which has divisions for differently shaped coins. As in the other schemes, there is a paying-in book.

Box with divisions for different coins

badge and a plastic money box, as well as a passbook with the squirrel emblem. A birthday card and a quarterly magazine are sent.

Barclays has a scheme also under the Supersaver name for children aged seven to 16 years. If the child is younger, the account can be operated in the parent's name. Withdrawals can be made at any time from this account, which pays 7.25.

Lloyds has its Black Horse Young Savers account. For an opening £10, the child receives a money box which has divisions for differently shaped coins. As in the other schemes, there is a paying-in book.

Marmalade sandwiches won't go in the post

Snoopy and his house. The money box costs only £1.50 but retails in shops for about £4. The rate paid on the account is 7.25.

The Woolwich has a 7 per cent account with an introductory pack of a ruler, pencils and other items. A birthday card and annual statement are features.

One of the most attractive children's accounts is the Jumbo with the Peckham, paying 9.15 per cent. The maximum age is 16 years. The society pays the annual subscription to join the World Wildlife Fund or Young Ornithologists Club with their

Marmalade sandwiches won't go in the post

Snoopy and his house. The money box costs only £1.50 but retails in shops for about £4. The rate paid on the account is 7.25.

The Woolwich has a 7 per cent account with an introductory pack of a ruler, pencils and other items. A birthday card and annual statement are features.

One of the most attractive children's accounts is the Jumbo with the Peckham, paying 9.15 per cent. The maximum age is 16 years. The society pays the annual subscription to join the World Wildlife Fund or Young Ornithologists Club with their

The Britannia introduced its

Would you like your child or grandchild to receive £9,321 at age 21?

If you're like many parents, grandparents or god-parents you are probably keen to set aside some money regularly or in a lump sum to benefit the youngster/s at a later date.

The problem is how to do it so they (rather than the taxman) reap the benefit.

The solution is the Baby Bond, a new concept introduced by one of the oldest established friendly societies, Timbridge Wells Equitable.

Under this scheme you set aside £100 a year per child for ten years. Or you put in a lump sum of £800 straight away and leave it there for ten years, thereby achieving a discount of 20% on the bond at the outset.

Because The Timbridge Wells enjoys the special tax concessions granted only to friendly societies, the money grows entirely tax free, which is more than you can say of monies placed either in building societies or bank deposits, where tax is deducted at source and cannot be refunded.

And you can expect an above average rate of growth. For a child just born, the sum of £6,120 could be available at age 18, or £9,321 at age 21, or £16,515 at age 25, all free of tax. Keep in mind that these specific figures are illustrations only and assume a growth rate of 15% p.a. in the underlying tax free fund. Find out more today.

Talk to Towry Law

for impartial financial advice.

Towry Law & Co. Ltd., FREEPOST, Windsor, SL4 1BT. Tel: 0753 868244. Outside office hours 01-936 9037. Or 031-226 2244 (Edinburgh) or 0532 445911 (Leeds).

Please send me full details without charge or obligation. I am/am not an existing Towry Law client.

Name _____ Address _____

How your donations help to stop the violence

CHARITIES

Christmas is traditionally the time for giving and it is the season when charities are particularly active. Most donors are well aware of the tax benefits of giving by a deed of covenant but how is your money spent? Family Money takes a look at the activities of one charity - the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

A three-month-old baby boy was left naked for hours in a freezing cold upstairs room. An eight-year-old girl was sexually abused by her father for months. A boy, aged four, was traumatized and turned into a violent "animal" because of his parents' continuous marital disputes.

These were recent NSPCC real-life cases. They involved real children and their suffering was very real indeed. They all show why the NSPCC is still a reality today. In 1985, even after 100 years of helping and protecting children.

Child abuse, as a number of court trials this year have



highlighted vividly, is a significant social problem. It occurs in cities and in the countryside. It involves rich and poor families, and its victims can be tiny babies or teenagers.

The scenarios for abuse are legion. A usually loving and caring mother may suddenly lose control when pressures at home become too much and may hit her child too hard. A couple's violent marriage rows may get out of hand and their baby is injured. And, there are deliberate sadistic forms of abuse.

The NSPCC's own research reveals many trigger factors for abuse, including marital discord, financial problems and, increasingly, unemployment.

The NSPCC marked its centenary last year, raising more than £14 million in a special appeal. The charity was founded in 1884, to improve the lot of so many children who were living desperate lives. Severe child abuse, heavy beatings and horrific neglect were then commonplace. Parents often treated their children as mere objects of property to do what they wanted with them.

Of course, things have changed dramatically in the intervening 100 years. The NSPCC has helped more than nine million children, laws have

Funds that gear up but often slip back

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Investment trusts, long the wallflower of the investment scene, make much of their advantages over the more popular pooled investment vehicle, the unit trust.

As a closed-end investment fund, an investment trust can borrow to invest at a time when share prices are rising, thereby enhancing its performance by gearing. A unit trust cannot do this.

Short-term comparisons, however, indicate that investment trusts, whatever their apparent advantages, are not doing as well as unit trusts.

The one-year and two-year performance figures show that unit trusts have easily outperformed investment trusts - and this at a time of more or less continuously rising markets when the investment trusts' ability to gear up should have stood them in good stead.

Top-performing Lowland managed to turn an initial investment of £100 into £165.70 over the one-year period. But FS Balanced Growth, its unit trust counterpart, did much better with a return of £196.20.

And the second best-performing investment trust, Drayton

"THATCHER'S CHOICE"

Mrs Thatcher writes in The Share Book by Rosemary Burr: published this week "For too long the world of stocks and shares has been a mystery understood by only a small minority. Yet the new opportunities will go begging unless enough people know how to take advantage of them. Now at last the tide is turning, and I am sure that this book will contribute to the process. It is about the nuts and bolts of buying, holding and selling shares. It should provide a valuable source of information for many. I should like to provide an A-Z of share terms from Account to Zero Coupon Bond, a guide to how to buy shares including a list of stockbrokers. Tax, share perks, how to set up an investment club, unit trusts and investment trusts are all covered." The Times

"A great present for the first-time shareholder" Sunday Express

"takes the mystique out of the stock market" The Guardian

"the glowing prize ministerial endorsement is well deserved... Rosemary Burr has provided every possible nut and bolt in a handy 207-page volume" Financial Weekly

MAKE IT YOUR CHOICE - THIS CHRISTMAS

THE SHARE BOOK BY ROSEMARY BURR. Price £5.99 from W. H. Smith and leading bookshops or (post free) from publishers. Royston Ltd, 80 Welbeck St, London, W1.

There will be a service 24 hours a day

live therapeutic work with children and families has been carried out.

Now, the NSPCC is establishing a network throughout England, Wales and Northern Ireland of child protection teams (the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children operates in Scotland). More than 20 teams are already in place, and the NSPCC wants 60 by the end of 1985.

These teams will integrate all the society's child care activities in a given area - a 24-hour-a-day investigative response service to calls about a child who is at risk, consultation and training services, family centres, playgroups, drop-in centres.

The planning behind every one of these teams has involved considerable discussion with all local authorities and many are offering their support by providing financial backing to their local team.

Child protection teams represent the future course of the society's work, but this long-term plan has to be funded year by year. In 1985 alone, the NSPCC will need to raise £14.5 million at least. To do this it has to organize itself well, but it will also take a great deal of effort and fund-raising skill.

New techniques are being

UNIT TRUST & INVESTMENT TRUSTS/TOP TEN			
Current value of £100 invested over various periods			
Unit Trust	24 months	Investment trusts	24 months
20 Balanced Growth	196.2	Lowland	195.7
FS Special Opportunities	170.9	Drayton Premier	161.4
Opportunity European Growth	167.8	TR City of London	141.1
Simon & Co. Special Sit	165.7	Murray Income	140.3
FS Income Group	164.2	City of Oxford	139.4
Guinness Nelson Recovery	158.4	Meltham	139.3
Vanguard Special Sit	156.8	Family	139.1
Country Bank Finance	155.6	FS Holdings	138.1
Murray Growth	155.4	Fleming Cloverhouse	138.0
TR Smaller Companies	155.1	Fleming Enterprise	138.5
Unit Trust	24 months	Investment trusts	24 months
Vanguard Special Sit	217.2	Lowland	221.0
FS Special Opportunities	207.7	FS & Co. European	198.8
Opportunity Growth & Income	195.6	Drayton Premier	198.4
Simon & Co. Special Sit	195.0	TR City of London	193.2
TR Special Opportunities	193.2	Murray Income	187.2
FS Income Group	191.8	Fleming Enterprise	185.5
M & G Midland & General	191.5	Fleming Cloverhouse	182.4
ISL Smaller Companies	190.3	Murray Smaller Markets	181.7
Murray Capital Recovery	190.3	Sec Trust of Scotland	176.9
TR Smaller Companies	189.3	Temple Bar	176.5

Did YOU make money in Laura Ashley?

Then you'll be glad to hear that there's many, many more new issues like that, including British Gas coming up, some of them even more profitable. Generally speaking, the private investor almost always makes money in new issues and there have been quite literally scores of opportunities over the past year. Thousands of people already make good, steady profits investing in new issues and often nothing else... year after year. They're not especially clever or anything like that, just well informed and in the right place at the right time. The New Issues Share Guide is the country's only specialist publication devoted exclusively to new issues.

Drop us a line today and we will send you FREE details, then you too can enjoy the simple way that already enables hundreds of investors to maintain those profits safely.

For New Issues Share Guide Ltd, 3 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1AU

Name _____ Address _____ Postcode _____

THE PLATINUM NOBLE

A HIGH RANKING INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

Before the introduction of the Noble, investing in platinum was difficult requiring specialist knowledge and considerable outlay. But this one ounce legal tender bullion coin, issued by the Isle of Man Treasury, has brought platinum within the reach of a great many more investors. Two years after its launch, the Noble is internationally recognised as an easily tradable asset offering a simple and convenient way into platinum.

Now there's also a new descendant of the Noble line - the 1/10oz Noble coin, which adds even further to the availability of platinum. The Platinum Noble - a truly tangible asset.

Actual diameter sizes:
1oz Noble 32.7mm
1/10oz Noble 16.5mm

For further information contact:
The Isle of Man Government,
c/o Ayrton Metals Limited,
30 Ely Place, London, EC1N 6RT. Telephone: 01-404 0970

TAX-EFFICIENT SAVINGS FOR CHILDREN

Through Schroders new Covenant Scheme you can save from £25 monthly for a child - except your own - and the taxman will add over £10 to it!

The money is invested for growth and income in one or more of Schroders excellent unit trusts, to help build capital for the future.

Return the coupon for full details.

THE SCHRODER COVENANT SCHEME FOR CHILDREN

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

Schroder Financial Management Ltd.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	11 1/2%
Adams & Company	11 1/2%
BOCI	11 1/2%
Citibank Savings	12 1/2%
Consolidated Creds	11 1/2%
Continental Trust	11 1/2%
Co-operative Bank	11 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	11 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	11 1/2%
Nat Westminster	11 1/2%
Royal Bank Scotland	11 1/2%
TSB	11 1/2%
Citibank NA	11 1/2%
† Mortgage Basic Rate	

Give them a good habit

It's better than money. Give Abbey National Gift Cheques. They're better than money because they earn interest. In fact, if they're handed in within a month, the interest is back-dated to the day you buy them.

ABBAY NATIONAL GIFT CHEQUES

Available from your local branch.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

UNIT TRUST INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT									
UNIT TRUST	MANAGER	INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE	ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT (£M)	NAV	1 YEAR %	3 YEAR %	5 YEAR %	10 YEAR %	15 YEAR %
AMERICAN TRUST									
American Fund	Mr. J. H. Smith	US Stocks	1,200	1.25	15.2	32.5	45.8	68.1	85.4
American Growth	Mr. J. H. Smith	US Stocks	800	1.18	12.5	28.1	38.2	55.6	72.9
American Income	Mr. J. H. Smith	US Bonds	500	1.05	8.1	18.4	25.7	38.9	52.1
American Divers	Mr. J. H. Smith	US Stocks & Bonds	1,500	1.32	14.8	31.2	44.5	67.8	84.1
EUROPEAN TRUST									
European Fund	Mr. R. L. Jones	UK Stocks	900	1.10	11.2	25.4	35.6	52.8	68.9
European Growth	Mr. R. L. Jones	UK Stocks	600	1.08	9.8	22.1	31.5	48.7	64.2
European Income	Mr. R. L. Jones	UK Bonds	400	1.02	7.5	16.8	23.9	36.1	49.3
European Divers	Mr. R. L. Jones	UK Stocks & Bonds	1,100	1.15	10.5	24.2	34.8	51.9	67.5
ASIAN TRUST									
Asian Fund	Mr. S. K. Lee	Asian Stocks	700	1.00	10.1	21.5	30.2	45.3	60.4
Asian Growth	Mr. S. K. Lee	Asian Stocks	500	0.98	8.9	19.8	28.1	42.6	57.8
Asian Income	Mr. S. K. Lee	Asian Bonds	300	0.95	6.2	14.5	21.4	33.7	46.9
Asian Divers	Mr. S. K. Lee	Asian Stocks & Bonds	900	1.05	9.5	20.6	29.3	44.1	59.2
AFRICAN TRUST									
African Fund	Mr. P. M. Brown	African Stocks	400	0.90	12.3	26.7	36.5	53.8	69.1
African Growth	Mr. P. M. Brown	African Stocks	300	0.88	11.1	24.9	34.2	50.1	65.4
African Income	Mr. P. M. Brown	African Bonds	200	0.85	9.4	20.1	28.8	43.5	58.7
African Divers	Mr. P. M. Brown	African Stocks & Bonds	600	0.95	10.8	23.4	32.1	48.9	64.2
GLOBAL TRUST									
Global Fund	Mr. D. E. White	World Stocks	1,800	1.20	13.5	29.8	41.2	62.5	78.9
Global Growth	Mr. D. E. White	World Stocks	1,200	1.18	12.2	27.5	38.9	58.1	74.6
Global Income	Mr. D. E. White	World Bonds	800	1.05	9.2	19.1	26.4	39.8	53.2
Global Divers	Mr. D. E. White	World Stocks & Bonds	2,500	1.25	12.8	28.6	40.1	61.4	77.8

UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS									
UNIT LINKED INSURANCE	MANAGER	INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE	ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT (£M)	NAV	1 YEAR %	3 YEAR %	5 YEAR %	10 YEAR %	15 YEAR %
AMERICAN TRUST									
American Fund	Mr. J. H. Smith	US Stocks	1,200	1.25	15.2	32.5	45.8	68.1	85.4
American Growth	Mr. J. H. Smith	US Stocks	800	1.18	12.5	28.1	38.2	55.6	72.9
American Income	Mr. J. H. Smith	US Bonds	500	1.05	8.1	18.4	25.7	38.9	52.1
American Divers	Mr. J. H. Smith	US Stocks & Bonds	1,500	1.32	14.8	31.2	44.5	67.8	84.1
EUROPEAN TRUST									
European Fund	Mr. R. L. Jones	UK Stocks	900	1.10	11.2	25.4	35.6	52.8	68.9
European Growth	Mr. R. L. Jones	UK Stocks	600	1.08	9.8	22.1	31.5	48.7	64.2
European Income	Mr. R. L. Jones	UK Bonds	400	1.02	7.5	16.8	23.9	36.1	49.3
European Divers	Mr. R. L. Jones	UK Stocks & Bonds	1,100	1.15	10.5	24.2	34.8	51.9	67.5
ASIAN TRUST									
Asian Fund	Mr. S. K. Lee	Asian Stocks	700	1.00	10.1	21.5	30.2	45.3	60.4
Asian Growth	Mr. S. K. Lee	Asian Stocks	500	0.98	8.9	19.8	28.1	42.6	57.8
Asian Income	Mr. S. K. Lee	Asian Bonds	300	0.95	6.2	14.5	21.4	33.7	46.9
Asian Divers	Mr. S. K. Lee	Asian Stocks & Bonds	900	1.05	9.5	20.6	29.3	44.1	59.2
AFRICAN TRUST									
African Fund	Mr. P. M. Brown	African Stocks	400	0.90	12.3	26.7	36.5	53.8	69.1
African Growth	Mr. P. M. Brown	African Stocks	300	0.88	11.1	24.9	34.2	50.1	65.4
African Income	Mr. P. M. Brown	African Bonds	200	0.85	9.4	20.1	28.8	43.5	58.7
African Divers	Mr. P. M. Brown	African Stocks & Bonds	600	0.95	10.8	23.4	32.1	48.9	64.2
GLOBAL TRUST									
Global Fund	Mr. D. E. White	World Stocks	1,800	1.20	13.5	29.8	41.2	62.5	78.9
Global Growth	Mr. D. E. White	World Stocks	1,200	1.18	12.2	27.5	38.9	58.1	74.6
Global Income	Mr. D. E. White	World Bonds	800	1.05	9.2	19.1	26.4	39.8	53.2
Global Divers	Mr. D. E. White	World Stocks & Bonds	2,500	1.25	12.8	28.6	40.1	61.4	77.8

IFA's fr
to Eng
blocks d

ment of t

at awa
gantic p



Surrey will have to make hard decisions

By Sydney Friskin

Surrey's attempt to recover lost laurel will begin this afternoon when they meet Yorkshire in the semi-final of the county championship at the National Hockey Centre, Wokingham. Surrey's last success was achieved in 1973 when they defeated Lancashire 1-0 in the final at Liverpool.

The Surrey squad, led by Newton, of Richmond, have much skill and experience in all departments, their attack having been strengthened by the return of Diamond from the England squad, recently in Malaysia. Their main problem will be who to leave out from their formidable squad of 17 players.

For Yorkshire, Bolland, also released from the England squad, takes over as sweeper, which means that Rowlands, if he plays, will move up in their defensive system. Their main goal-getters are Person, of Huddersfield, and Stamp, of Welling. Mike Cattrell hits the ball hard at short corners.

Earlier in the day, Devon take on Worcestershire in the champions' match, the defeated Middlesex last season in the final on penalty strokes. Worcestershire, who look well-balanced, have three Slough players in their squad, Knott and Steve Farrington, fast and energetic on the left wing.

Devon have called on nine players from Ica, the Sun Life West league champions. Among them is Robert Scianter, an improving forward, who was a member of the England team in Malaysia. Also in the Devon side is his brother Graham, and there are two other brothers, Roger and Tim Shobrook. The final will be played at the same venue tomorrow starting at 11.30 am.

Four British clubs, St Albans - the English champions, Middlesbrough, of Dundee, Team Volkswagen (Belgium), and Swansea, are at Zwolle (Netherlands) this weekend for an indoor tournament labelled as the unofficial club championship of Europe. German clubs, however, are not playing.

IN BRIEF

RUGBY UNION: Loughborough Students, holders of the Universities Athletic Union title, will face their rivals from Durham at home in the quarter-finals of this season's championship, to be played on January 29.

WINTER-FINAL DRAW: Bristol v Birmingham, Loughborough v Durham, Manchester v Somerset, Exeter v Northampton, Gloucester v Bath, Worcester v Oxford, Ipswich v Peterborough, and Doncaster v York.

CYCLO-CROSS: Britain rely on the same squad that lifted them to the top of the team table in the European challenge series at Crystal Palace last month for the next round at Leoben, in Belgium, on December 27.

TEAM: S. Barnes, P. Dene, C. Young, D. Baker.

BADMINTON: A recurring foot injury affected the England No. 10, Glen Milson, of Essex, during the unofficial international against Denmark at Huddersfield on Thursday, helping the Danes to a 4-3 win.

ICE SKATING: Elena Leonova and Gennadi Krasnitsky spearheaded a Soviet triumph in the pairs event at the world junior figure skating championships in Sarajevo.

RESULTS: 1. Leonova and G. Krasnitsky (USSR), 2. M. Mironov and G. Sakhonchik (USSR), 3. E. Mironova and I. Torgashov (USSR), 4. S. Mironov and I. Torgashov (USSR), 5. S. Mironov and I. Torgashov (USSR).

The hack's clichés up in lights

SIDELINES Gordon Allan

Shakespeare Avenue is a long way from Wembley and Wimbledon and yet we sports journalists should feel at home in it. I am thinking of all those inflated clichés up there in lights - brilliant, this, magnificent, that, unforgettable, something else. Substitute a goal or a race for a new Plater or an old Rattigan and you would not know the difference.

The words are fixed, and as an I of seeing them, wherever they are. More than that, I do not believe them most of the time. That play, I think, as I walk down Shakespeare Avenue, will prove they actually have such frightfully boring things as rain and wind.

We were in the foyer of the National Theatre the other evening and found ourselves at the same table as a young man and a girl who were, my wife assured me, typical Sloane Rangers. The young man had lately visited China and the girl asked what he thought of it. "It was raining and there was a cold wind," was all he said.

So much for China. The girl changed the subject to Kensington, evidently wishing to hear no more of a country where they actually have such frightfully boring things as rain and wind.

That dialogue confirmed me in my preference for Texas as opposed to Sloane Rangers, but that is by the way. What is not by the way is the moral to be drawn from it.

The young man was, for a moment, an unwitting, unpaid critic of China, a big subject that he covered in a few words of biblical brevity. Would that all critics, of the theatre, sport or anything else, were as hard to impress as he and not given to painting the weed rather than the fly, mechanically churning out words like brilliant, magnificent and unforgettable about the routine, the average and the everyday.

I forget what we had gone to see at the National, but it was not *Pravda*, which is about a newspaper editor and his proprietor. Nearly all Fleet Street novels and plays are about the bosses. What we need, to correct the balance, are more works about sports hacks. They do not have to be brilliant, magnificent and unforgettable - just good of their kind (which *Hold the Back Page* reportedly is not).

And if the authors want to add a touch of breathtaking originality, avoid the biggest cliché in the genre, and give their stuff a semblance of truth to life, I suggest they make the hacks happily married and without a drink problem.

PERSONAL COLUMNS

Trade 01-837 2104 and 01-278 9232 Private 01-837 3333 or 3311

DEATHS

WHEELER - On Thursday December 12th, 1985, at Wokingham, Hampshire, after a long illness, Mrs. Jean Wheeler, nee Jones, aged 84, widow of the late Mr. John Wheeler, died. She was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Jones, of Wokingham. She was a member of the Wokingham Baptist Church. Burial took place on Saturday, December 14th, 1985, at Wokingham Baptist Church. Friends are invited to the funeral service on Saturday, December 14th, 1985, at 10.30 am, at Wokingham Baptist Church, Wokingham. The Rev. Canon J. H. Jones will officiate. Flowers by arrangement.

WOODROFFE - On December 11, 1985, at Alderley House, Wokingham, Hampshire, after a long illness, Mrs. Jean Woodroffe, nee Jones, aged 84, widow of the late Mr. John Woodroffe, died. She was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Jones, of Wokingham. She was a member of the Wokingham Baptist Church. Burial took place on Saturday, December 14th, 1985, at Wokingham Baptist Church. Friends are invited to the funeral service on Saturday, December 14th, 1985, at 10.30 am, at Wokingham Baptist Church, Wokingham. The Rev. Canon J. H. Jones will officiate. Flowers by arrangement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grave helps widows and orphans.
Esther Rantzen will be helping Gruse this Christmas. Please watch her appeal at 6.40pm on TV on Sunday.

Donations to Gruse House, 126 Sheen Road, Richmond, Surrey TW9 1UR

Sell your Ceramics well at Phillips
To order items in forthcoming sales telephone John Matthews 01-439 0602 Ext 243 7 Sheen St. New Bond St. London W1Y 0AS

Cancer
Together we can beat it. We fund over one third of all research into the prevention and cure of cancer in the UK. Help us by sending a donation or make a legacy to Cancer Research Campaign 2 Carfax House Terrace, (Dept. T.28), London SW1Y 5AR.

FOR SALE

RESISTA CARPETS
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR A VERY SPECIAL PRICE this beautiful, modern, 2 bed, newly furnished house, with a large garden, is for sale. It is a real bargain. Call 01-235 5211.

FOR A VERY SPECIAL PRICE this beautiful, modern, 2 bed, newly furnished house, with a large garden, is for sale. It is a real bargain. Call 01-235 5211.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

RENTALS

Trade 01-837 2104 and 01-278 9232 Private 01-837 3333 or 3311

FOR SALE

RESISTA CARPETS
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

RENTALS

Trade 01-837 2104 and 01-278 9232 Private 01-837 3333 or 3311

FOR SALE

RESISTA CARPETS
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

RENTALS

Trade 01-837 2104 and 01-278 9232 Private 01-837 3333 or 3311

FOR SALE

RESISTA CARPETS
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

RENTALS

Trade 01-837 2104 and 01-278 9232 Private 01-837 3333 or 3311

FOR SALE

RESISTA CARPETS
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

FOR SALE
204 FULHAM ROAD, PADDINGTON, LONDON, W2. Tel: 01-731 9588. Free estimates - collect 8000.

